North Melbourne Football Club

The Formative Years
1855-1888

HOTHAM FOOTBALL CLUB. 1886.

by

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24th May 2025

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The jacket illustration shows North Melbourne Football Club's second-20 premiership team, in Hotham Recreational Reserved, Arden Street, 1886.

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IN THE BEGINNING

Introduction

This book complements Gerard Dowling's insightful work from 1973 which was revised in 1997. It features new updates that shed light on key events and the early history of the North Melbourne Football Club, offering reliable timestamps of the club's events, based on newly uncovered contemporary accounts from newspapers and government documents.[1]

The exploration delves into North's football history during the pivotal years from 1855 to 1888, highlighted by supporting evidence of the club's participation in round-robin scratch matches at Graham's Paddock from 1856 to 1859.[2] The name Graham's Paddock has nearly faded from the historical records of North's cricket and football club. Only a handful of the clubs early inter-generational members seem to remember the original ground of the North Melbourne Club.

In preparing this book some of the descendants of the club's early pioneer families, such as Guest, White, and Bracken, have shared their limited accounts, which allowed the author to locate its site. Independently of the author's research, provenance of the North Melbourne Club playing cricket and football matches in Graham's Paddock [3] before 1860, is confirmed by a lesser-known article "Melbourne Playgrounds," published in Age newspaper in 1933.[4]

This entry aligns with anecdotal evidence from the Guest family's archives [5] [6] [7] with other factual accounts about James Graham (1819-1898) included in this book, which were shared with the author by Bracken and White family descendants. They recall the games played by their original ancestors in North Melbourne, specifically cricket and football in Graham's Paddock before the club's Royal Park era.

The author adopted an objective stance, distancing himself from the memories recounted by descendants of the North Melbourne Football Club's founding generation. He examined contemporary sources such as newspapers, government documents, and other evidence to assess whether these narratives could be corroborated, disproven, or clarified.

The accounts given by the descendants of the Guest, White, and Bracken families were deemed accurate and credible, aligning well with contemporary evidence uncovered that enriches both the early history of the club and Australian rules football from 1856 and prior to the Victorian Football Associations (VFA)'s commencement in 1877.

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[1] The author used thematic analysis method to learn more about the early history of the North Melbourne football club and Australian rules. The method emphasises identifying, analysing and interpreting patterns of meaning (or "themes") within qualitative data - such as newspaper, documents and interviews/discussions (Professor Virginia Braun [Ginny] and Associate Professor Victoria Clarke, "Thematic Analysis," University of Aukland, New Zealand. https://www.thematicanalysis.net/).

[2] Guest Paternal Heritage 2024, Researcher & Author John L.R. Guest [Volume 1): National Library of Australia, ISBN: 978-0-6486183-0-0. SLT 929.20994 G938G; Barcode: 30328117082551.

[3] Guest, John Lindsay Robert, 2023, North Melbourne Football Club's Early History - A Working Paper. Internet Archives, 12 July, 2023, Internet Archives.

[4] Melbourne's Playgrounds, No. 2, The Age, Saturday 13th May 1933, page 18.

[5] Recovered Artefacts, 2023, A working paper into the early history of the North Melbourne Football Club, John Guest, FCDA, 12 July 2023.

[6] Heritage 1066 Internet Archives, https://archive.org/details/@heritage1066.

[7] The Letters of James Graham Pioneer Merchant. National Library of Australia. https://catalogue.nla.gov.au/catalog/1771940.

This information also clarifies the less controversial aspects of the Melbourne football scene the role of the North Melbourne Football Club after 1877 up until 1888. The author aims for the evidence presented in this book to enable historians and club to convey a more complete account of North's story than what was previously achievable when Gerard Dowling completed his wonderful research into the North Melbourne Football Club in 1997 and taken back by him as far as 1869.[8]

1855

The North Melbourne Club from 1855 in Graham's Paddock

This paddock, positioned at the base of the Benevolent Asylum, was named by locals in honour of James Graham, who lived nearby at the corner of Bourke and Russell Streets in Melbourne since 1836.

After his employer acquired the land around 1847, Graham would often stroll to the paddock at the west end of Errol, just north of the Victoria Street terminus, before it was sold as part of a larger parcel to the Victorian Benevolent Society around 1850.[9] During his walks along Victoria Street, he would tend to illegal grazing on the site. Known for admiring the view of Geelong from Hotham Hill, he often engaged in conversations with locals about the breathtaking panorama across the Moonee Ponds Creek and Saltwater River towards Geelong. [10] [11]

At the time the photograph was taken of him shown below, James Graham (1819-1898) was a wealthy merchant and influential man in Melbourne and connected to Heidelberg's Banyule Homestead in Viewbank by his daughter who married his friend, Dr Robert Martin: [12] [13] [14] [15] [16]

[8] Dowling, G, 1997, North Story, The: The North Melbourne Football Club, ISBN: 9780949853561. Dowling, G, 1973, North Story, The North Melbourne Football Club, National Library of Australia Book Catalogue, Bib ID: 187166.

[9] Graham, James, 1819-1898 & Graham, Sally, 1938-. (1985). Pioneer Merchant: The Letters of James Graham, 1839-54 / Sally Graham. South Yarra, Victoria. Hyland House.

[10] Westgarth, W, 1888, pp 26-27, Personal Recollections of Early Melbourne and Victoria.

[11] Notable People of Collingwood, Notables Database, James Graham 1819-1898, Merchant, Early Settler & Member of Parliament.

[12] Ibid, Graham J & Graham S, 1985, p 187, p188, p 190.

[13] Hayes, S, PhD, 2014, p4, pp12-15, p18 "Good Taste, Fashion, Luxury: A Genteel Melbourne Family and Their Rubbish," Studies in Australasian Historical Archaeology, Volume 5, Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology.

[14] Ibid, Graham J & Graham S, 1985, p 91, 147, 150.

[15] Genealogical Society of Victoria 1970, Port Phillip Pioneer Pedigrees: No. 2 – The Martin Family of Banyule and Viewbank, Heidelberg. Ancestor, 8, (5): 105–108.

[16] Ibid, Graham J & Graham S, 1985, p 101, p 104, p106, p190.

1856

Founder & Inaugural President, Mr. F.T. Gell 1807-1891

Identified in the same article, "Melbourne Playgrounds," is the club's founding father, local resident of North Melbourne, Mr. F.T. Gell (1808-1891) [17] born Francis Thomas Gell. He is pictured below: [18] [19]

Gell, being part of the young Melbourne town social circles, was likely well-acquainted with James Graham (1819-1898), and his friends, who were all prominent figures in Melbourne.

Together with several notable individuals from North Melbourne, all former British residents, in 1858, he and his inaugural committee members effectively lobbied the Melbourne Council for the establishment of a facility in Royal Park to serve the club's two sporting branches, cricket and football. [20] [21]

While this book acknowledges Gell, and his co-founders for their significant contributions, they fled the club as early as 1860.[22] Their flee coincides with a swell in membership of the Victorian Irish into the North Melbourne Club from 1858. [23]

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[17] McKay, H, 2006, p43, Men of Hotham, Mr. F.T. Gell 1807-1891, M.L.A. Mayor of North Melbourne, Cricketer.

[18] Francis Thomas Gell c1864, Mayor of Hotham {North Melbourne), Picture Victoria, Melbourne Library Services, ID: 17717, Copyright: library owns image (image on public access), Org ID: People 86; Description: Image held by North Melbourne Library. Francis Thomas Gell born Lewes Suffolk England in 1807 arrival in Melbourne 16/06/1854; Subject: lawyers.

[19] Geographical location, social network, and political standing antecedents suggest Mr. F.T. Gell and Mr. James Graham were acquainted.

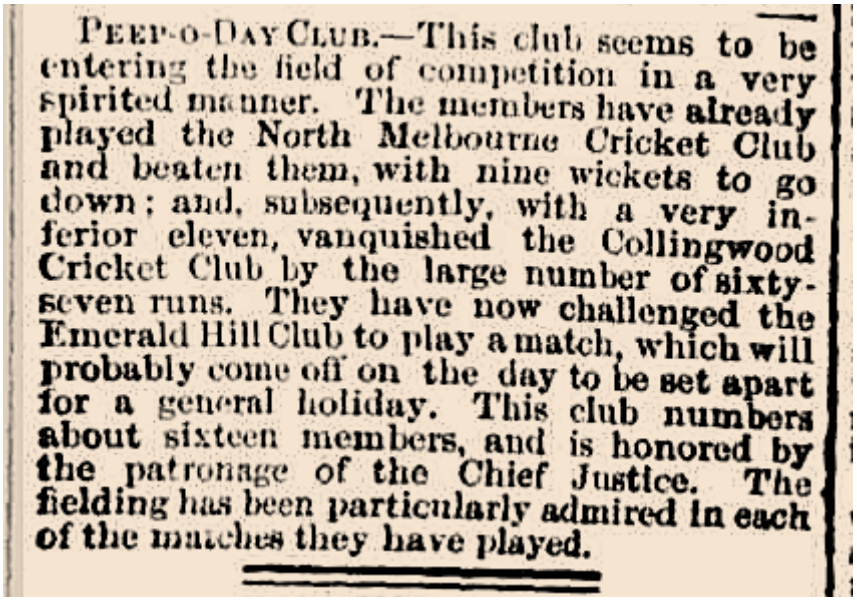
[20] "Royal Park cleared for Playing Cricket, Football & Other Games in 1858/9," in Sanderson, W., 1932, p. 7, M.A., L.L.D, "Early History of Royal Park 1844-1933."

[21] The Hotham Historical Project operates under the auspices of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria (RHSV).

[22] Confirmation, 2023, Hotham Historical Project, Royal Historical Society off Victoria, Men of Hotham, online.

[23] Ibid, Guest, J.L.R. 2023, North Melbourne Football Club's Early History - A Working Paper. Internet Archives, 12 July, 2023, Internet Archives.

Reasonably inferred from the article below, the North Melbourne Cricket Cub was well established prior to Saturday 12th January 1856, no doubt starting the season 1855 and probably established by inference before the 1854/55 cricket season: [24] [25]



PEEP-O-DAY CLUB.—This club seems to be entering the field of competition in a very spirited manner. The members have already played the North Melbourne Cricket Club and beaten them, with nine wickets to go down; and, subsequently, with a very inferior eleven, vanquished the Collingwood Cricket Club by the large number of sixty-seven runs. They have now challenged the Emerald Hill Club to play a match, which will probably come off on the day to be set apart for a general holiday. This club numbers about sixteen members, and is honored by the patronage of the Chief Justice. The fielding has been particularly admired in each of the matches they have played.

The article above further provides a very early demonstrates that the games organised for North included, playing the Emerald Hill and Collingwood Cricket Clubs as well as the most unusually named "Peep-o-Day Club" new to the Melbourne cricket scene.

1857

In March 1857, after John Kidd Guest (1831-1871) arrived and reconnected with friend and family member James White, the he became a member of the North Melbourne Club, thus joining the North Melbourne sporting community in Graham's Paddock. These men, along with their friends, the Bracken family, were further united by their memberships in the Templemore Citizen Cricket and Football Clubs, as well as the North Melbourne Club, [26]which had by 1858 its two developing cricket and football branches playing in Graham's Paddock, North Melbourne (Hotham Hill).[27]

[24] CRICKET, PEEP-O-DAY CLUB PLAYED THE NORTH MELBOURNE CRICKET CLUB, The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria, Wednesday 16th January 1856, Page 5.

[25] On the 28th August 2013, the North Melbourne Cricket Club, long a separate entity from the North Melbourne Football Club, merged with Greenvale Cricket Club and subsequently taking the Greenvale name. and continuing to competing in Victoria premier competition. http://www.greenvalecc.com.au/ and gateway to: https://greenvalekangaroos.com.au/.

[26] Guest, John Lindsay Robert FCDA, 2023, Working Paper - Fact Finding: Sports in Templemore & the North Melbourne Club Connection Melbourne Australia.

[27] James Bracken's 1831-1887 relative shared with the author that he was a friend and teammate of John Kidd Guest 1831-1871 and James White, who played for Templemore in Tipperary, East Munster, Ireland. While Bracken enjoyed socialising and watching cricket and football games at Graham Paddock, where his friends Guest and White played, he was neither a member nor a player of the club.

The image below [28]shows a view looking north along Victoria Street in North Melbourne towards Hotham Hill, featuring the Benevolent Asylum in the background. At the foot the asylum, Graham's Paddock served as a sports ground no later than 1855 and until the end of the 1859 football season for the North Melbourne Club. This ground was situated just north of the intersection of Street with Hawke Street to the left [west) and Errol Street to the right (east). Hawke and Errol Streets effectively function as extensions of each other across Victoria Street.[29]

1858

North Melbourne's successful bid for a cricket & football ground in Royal Park

By 1858, club President F.T. Gell and his inaugural committee were successful in the club's bid to secure construction of a new ground in Royal Park.[30] [31] Below is a facsimile of government preserved record for the ground's construction in Royal Park ready for use by the cricket branch in 1858: [32]

was divided into a number of large paddocks, with a small triangular plot in front of the Zoo. A drive was also formed around the sides and back of the Zoo. The native timber was subsequently thinned to allow spaces for playing cricket, football, and other games, and for military reviews. There were a few clumps of she-oaks left in the hill paddock to the west of the Zoo. Plantations of pines and other trees were formed, and fresh trees planted from time to time.

[28] Northerly view along Victoria Street North Melbourne to Hotham Hill. The Hotham Saw Mills is featured. Source: Picture Victoria. ID: 18087. Copyright: library owns image (image on public access)
Org ID: Local Business 72. Original image held by Melbourne Library Service.
[29] Graham's Paddock, also served as their home ground for St. Mary's Church of England school playing intra-school cricket and football matches on the paddock and from the mid-1850s played public school in athletics, cricket and football, before forming the St Mary's Church of England under age football club and playing all of its sports also in Royal Park from the 1860s.
[30] NMCC Call for Players, in the Argus Newspaper, Melbourne, Victoria, Thursday 22nd November 1855, Page 8, Advertising.
[31] The Age, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 13th May 1933, Page 18.
[32] Ibid, "Sanderson, W., 1932, p. 7, M.A., L.L.D, "Early History of Royal Park 1844-1933."

In 1858, the grassroots organisers of games at Graham's Paddock included James White, a North Melbourne resident from Wrecklyn Street. He immigrated to Albert Park in Melbourne from Templemore, Tipperary, East Munster, Ireland in 1852. His relative by marriage of their siblings, John Guest (1831-1871) also hailed from Templemore. After the St. Patrick's Day football in 1856, many new Irish immigrants to Melbourne in 1857 were drawn to the club, conveniently located within walking distance of central Melbourne.

Another obscure account, sourced from the Hotham History Project (HHP)'s online website, lists key members of the North Melbourne Club for the period pre-1858 and their identities are tied to securing the club securing the Royal Park ground for cricket in 1858 and football which followed: [33] [34] [35] [36] [37]

THE FIRST CRICKET GROUND.

This was situated in the Royal Park, a splendid site having been granted to the North Melbourne Cricket Club by the Government. The club fenced in the land, erected a pavilion on it, and laid down an excellent pitch early in 1858. The following were some of the earliest members, viz., Messrs. George Verdon (afterwards Sir George), Rev. Mr. Handfield (afterwards Canon Handfield), Rev. Mr. Watson, Alexander Short, Angel Ellis, Albert Mattingley, Henry Barlow, Edward, Somers, and Sydney Puckle (three brothers), King, Manton, Hollis, Wills, Barrass, D'Assonville, and others. After a few years, the old enthusiastic members either married or left the district and resigned their membership of the club, leaving successors who were not so enthusiastic in the game.

Although founder Mr. Francis Thomas Gell (1807-1891) is not detailed in the research account above, earlier evidence confirms his role as the inaugural President of the North Melbourne Club. His presence in this study greatly enhances the heritage library of the North Melbourne Football Club and breaks through the artificial establishment year arbitrarily set for the club 1869 and followed fait accompli by football historians since 1997. [38] [39] [40] [41]

[33] Mattingley, Albert, 'The Early History of North Melbourne,' in the Victorian Historical Magazine, December 1916, and March 1917, The Historical Society of Victoria.
[34] Ibid, The Hotham Historical Project (HHP/RHSV).
[35] In this book, unless stated otherwise, when there are multiple credible sources providing confirming evidence with similar timestamps, the author conservatively selects the most recent timestamp, such as 1860 over 1859, as a fair and reasonable estimate when the event took place.
[36] Confirmation, 2023, Hotham Historical Project, Royal Historical Society off Victoria, Men of Hotham, online.
[37] Researcher and author Gerard Dowling, in his work "North Story," suggested an indicative establishment year after completing his search for early artifacts of the club in 1997, prior to digitisation. His trace ended in the year 1869, acknowledging that the club existed in the1860s but lacking additional details to confidently identify any further historical events related to the North Melbourne Football Club. The NMFC regards his work as the main reference for the club's early heritage. This study *may be* considered an update of the North Story.
[38] North Melbourne's cricket and football ground situated in the Royal Park, a splendid site having been granted to the North Melbourne Cricket Club by the Government after the club's successful bid for its construction and use in 1858 – In the term of the first president Mr. F. T. Gell.
[39] Victorian Heritage Database "VHD," vhd.heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au.
[40] McKay, H, 2006, p43, Men of Hotham, recognises F.T. Gell being invited several times to play employer v employer cricket.
[41] Ibid, Victorian Heritage Database "VHD," vhd.heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au.

1859

Referencing the Guest family archives, we discover that the rail line from Batman Hill (Southern Cross Station) to Williamstown was inaugurated on October 6th 1859. [42] [43] [44] This line included stops at North Melbourne, Flemington, and Footscray stations before continuing to Williamstown. This essential rail infrastructure provided the North Melbourne, Footscray, and Williamstown football clubs—established by 1860 and primarily comprised of former Victorian Irish members—with convenient access for inter-club matches, promoting competition among these clubs and other "Irish" clubs throughout the 1860s. [45] [46]

Friendly matches were also played at Flemington Racecourse, which began in 1840, were open to all and encouraged community participation in football, both among players and spectators. St. Patrick's Day football games, which evolved from 1836 in Melbourne, and quickly became an annual event for the Victorian Irish from these clubs. Camaraderie among these mainly Irish born players strengthened when festival was celebrated at Flemington starting in March 1856. At that time, 1858 a growing number of Victorian Irish preferred playing 15 or 16-a-side football on Graham's Paddock over cricket. [47] [48] [49] [50] [51]

In 1858, John joined James and other club members in actively participating in work programs organised by the committee to improve and enhance the facilities at their newly constructed home ground. Cricket was first played on their Royal Park ground in 1858/9 followed by football late in 1859. Work continued throughout the 1860s, mostly by members who preferred to play football.[52] [53]

[42] Bracken, P, PhD, 2014, Foreign and Fantastic Field Sports: Cricket in County Tipperary" Thurles, 2014.
[43] Ibid, Guest, J.L.R. 2023, North Melbourne Football Club's Early History - A Working Paper. Internet Archives, 12 July, 2023, Internet Archives.
[44] Guest Paternal Heritage 2024, Researcher & Author John L.R. Guest [Volume 1): National Library of Australia, ISBN: 978-0-6486183-0-0. SLT 929.20994 G938G; Barcode: 30328117082551.
[45] Victorian Heritage Register. https://vhd.heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/places/889.
[46] Hatcher, S, North Melbourne railway Station, Melbourne Street, Hotham Historical Project – Royal Historical Society of Victoria. https://www.melbournestreets.com.au/timeline/train-station-and-railway-line-established/.
[47] Bracken's expert insights shared on the matter via email exchange between 2023 and 2024.
[48] C.f., Bracken, P, PhD, 2018, Development of Sport in County Tipperary, 1840-1880", Cork University Press, 2018.
[49] Bracken, P, PhD, 2014, Foreign and Fantastic Field Sports: Cricket in County Tipperary" Thurles, 2014.
[50] Ibid, Guest, J.L.R. 2023, North Melbourne Football Club's Early History - A Working Paper. Internet Archives, 12 July, 2023, Internet Archives.
[51] Guest Paternal Heritage 2024, Researcher & Author John L.R. Guest [Volume 1): National Library of Australia, ISBN: 978-0-6486183-0-0. SLT 929.20994 G938G; Barcode: 30328117082551.
[52] Guest Paternal Heritage 2024, Researcher & Author John L.R. Guest [Volume 1): National Library of Australia, ISBN: 978-0-6486183-0-0. SLT 929.20994 G938G; Barcode: 30328117082551.
[53] Ibid, Guest, J.L.R. 2023, North Melbourne Football Club's Early History - A Working Paper. Internet Archives, 12 July, 2023, Internet Archives.

John Guest, also known as John Kidd Guest (1831-1871), established two clothing shops on Collins Street West and Williams Street in Melbourne [54] [55] [5657] shortly after migrating from Templemore in March 1857.[58] Additionally, by 1860, he was also recorded working as a shipping agent [59] and known by his family to have imported cricket clothing from his father's shop in Templemore, East Munster, Tipperary from 1857. [60] [61] [62] [63] He was introduced to the founding members of the North Melbourne Club in 1857 by his relative and friend James White the elder. [64]White recognised Guest as a dependable clothier capable of supplying sports apparel to the North Melbourne club's players and others.

1860

The club's earliest notables

At first glance, the upcoming evidence will demonstrate that between 1855 and 1860, twenty first-generation members of the North Melbourne Football Club have been identified. For the reader's convenience, these members are summarised in the table below. We begin with the club's inaugural president for both the cricket and football, the Honourable Mr. Francis Thomas Gell (1807-1891). The first two known ex-Victorian Irish foundation generation, John Kidd Guest and James White, both from Templemore, Tipperary, East Munster, Ireland, are included alongside primarily ex-British members who were Gell's co-founders and/or inaugural committee members Together, Gell's committee members played a crucial role in securing Graham's Paddock as the club's new home ground in Royal Park. [65] [66] [67] [68]

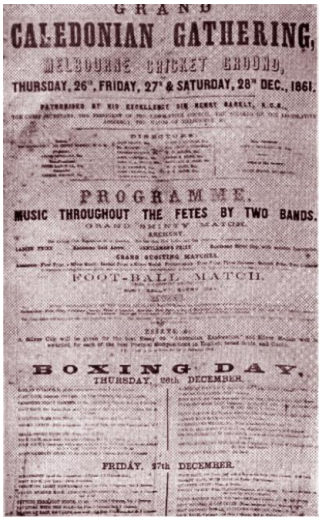
Mr. F.T. Gell, M.L.A. (Founder & President)	
Mr. George Verdon.	Mr. Puckle (one of three brothers Puckle).
Rev. Mr. Handfield.	Mr. Somers.
Rev. Mr. Watson.	Mr. King.
Mr. Alexander Short.	Mr. Manton.
Mr. Angel Ellis.	Mr. Hollis.
Mr. Albert Mattingley.	Mr. Wills.
Mr. Henry Barlow.	Mr. Barrass.
Mr. Edward.	Mr. D'Assonville.
Mr. Sydney Puckle	Mr. John K. Guest.
Re. Edward Puckle	Mr. James White (Snr.)

[54] John Guest, Clothier & Outfitter, Sands & Kenny, 1858, Melbourne Directory, page 145.
[55] John Guest, Sands & Kenny, 1859, Melbourne Directory, page 86.
[56] Victorian Birth, Death & Marriages Register (VBDM). Birth Registration Number: 3564; Birth - Archibald Guest, Father: John Guest; Father's Occupation: Draper; Mother Matilda Guest; Maiden Name: Connolly.
[57] VBDM, BRN: 22060.; Birth - John Henry Guest, Father: John Guest; Father's Occupation: Draper; Mother Matilda Guest; Maiden Name: Connolly.
[58] John Guest (1831-1871) arrival in Melbourne, March 1857. Aged 25 years. Ship: James Baines. Arrival Date: March 1857. Source: Public Records Office of Victoria, Inbound Passenger Ship Lists, Vessel, James Baines, Arrival: March 1857; Passenger: John Guest; Aged 25 years.
[59] VBDM, BRN: 6002; Birth: William Langford Guest; Birth Date: 1860; Birth Place: East Collingwood, Victoria; Registration Year: 1860/ Father: John Guest; Father's Occupation: Shipping Agent; Mother: Matilda Guest; Mother's Maiden Name: Connolly.
[60] John Guest (1786-1864), Draper & Clothier, George Street, Templemore, Slater's 1846, National Commercial Directory of Ireland, 1846, page 315, ditto 1856).
[61] Guest, John Lindsay Robert (2024, p4), Working Paper – Fact Finding: Sports in Templemore & the North Melbourne Club Connection. Melbourne, Australia.
[62] Bracken, P, PhD, 2014, Foreign and Fantastic Field Sports: Cricket in County Tipperary" Thurles, 2014.
[63] Ibid, Guest Paternal Heritage 2024, National Library of Australia, Canberra, ACT, Australia.
[64] Ibid, Guest, John Lindsay Robert (2024, p4).
[65] Victoria History Magazine, Vol XIV, No. 3, May, 1932.
[66] Mattingley, Albert, 'The Early History of North Melbourne', in the Victorian Historical Magazine, December, 1916, and March, 1917, The Historical Society of Victoria.
[67] "PRESENTATION TO CR. J. H. GARDINER," North Melbourne Courier and West Melbourne Advertiser, 5th September 1913.
[68] Victorian Heritage Database "VHD," vhd.heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au.

Each individual mentioned is acknowledged for their significant to the club's early grassroots development, both before and after November 22, 1855, and continuing at least through the end the 1860 football season. Their contributions may, at some in the future, be honoured by the club, ensuring that they are remembered and their involvement is preserved in the club's official history.

1861

Presented below is a replica of the promotional poster for the 1861 Grand Caledonian Gathering. This poster retrospectively marked the start of a decade-long challenge cup series, representing the first organised Australian rules competition publicly recognised in Melbourne through newspaper advertisements from 1861 to 1869:


GRAND
CALEDONIAN GATHERING,
MELBOURNE CRICKET GROUND,
THURSDAY, 26th, FRIDAY, 27th & SATURDAY, 28th DEC., 1861.
PROGRAMME.
MUSIC THROUGHOUT THE FETES BY TWO BANDS.
FOOT-BALL MATCH.
BOXING DAY,
THURSDAY, 26th DECEMBER.
FRIDAY, 27th DECEMBER.

The initial phase of the Challenge Cup series, known as the "Caledonian Cup," took place sporadically between 1861 and 1864. During the extended challenge cup period 1861 to 1869, football clubs with a predominantly former Victorian Irish membership/player base, made their separate arrangements to play inter-clubs competitions. Rarely did these clubs receive coverage in mainstream Melbourne newspapers that favoured ex-pat British news and sport. [69] [70]

From 1865 to 1869, restrictions that had previously prevented from competing for the popular cup were briefly lifted, allowing strong North Melbourne club to participate in 1865. However, club delegates overseeing the challenge cup competition further barred the St Kilda club, a British membership club, from playing. St Kilda Football Club to be excluded from the Challenge Cup era because of its disregard for Melbourne rule 7, which prohibited shin kicking and tripping. [71] These actions were reminiscent of the northern English and Scottish games that St Kilda preferred, rather aligning with the Eton rugby or Melbourne rules that other clubs in the former British cluster more readily embraced.

[69] Guest, John Lindsay Robert (2023), North Melbourne Football Club's Early History: A Working Paper, 2023. Melbourne, Australia. Internet Archives.

[70] Arthur, D, 2019, "Foundation Narratives in Rowing, Cricket and Australian Rules Football: Sport in Footscray 1859-1886" - A thesis submitted for a Masters by Research degree at Victoria University Institute for Health and Sport Victoria University Melbourne, Victoria, April 2019.

[71] Phonse Tobin former NMFC President, disliked the media calling North Melbourne 'Shinboners,' believing it had negative connotations doubting it was linked to players working as boners at local meat markets and abattoirs. https://destobin.com.au/shinboners-to-kangaroos/.

From 1861 to 1869, several the Victorian Irish Australian rules clubs in Melbourne per se found themselves on the outside in at the Challenge Cup series promoted by newspapers. The less-publicised clubs, primarily composed of members and players with Victorian Irish backgrounds, organised their own competitions. Public school teams including smaller church school competed for the Lyons Cup.

The Victorian Irish open age Australian rules football clubs were located just north of the small town of Melbourne, spanning from Collingwood in the east, through North Melbourne, to Footscray, and as far west as Williamstown.[72] Emerald Hill Football Club another Victorian Irish member club also played. The North Melbourne, Footscray and Williamston clubs benefited most from October 6th 1859 being linked by a regular and short rail journey service.

The Emerald Hill Football Club, a distinctive club located just south of the Yarra River and established in 1858, [73]was also prohibited from competing for the cup in the 1860s. Similar to its peers, it was a Victorian Irish Australian rules club that took part in a lesser-known, separate competition. The author loosely refers to this parallel league as the Victorian Irish version of Australian rules football in Melbourne during the years 1860-1869.[7475 76]

The Swans became the 'Sydney' Swans in 1982, when the club relocated to the Harbour City from South Melbourne. It's a club with a rich history and according to 'In the Blood,' by renowned football journalist and author Jim Main, had its roots in the area just south of Melbourne's Yarra River. The area was settled by merchants and dockers who had arrived from Europe, primarily from Ireland, in the early 1850s.

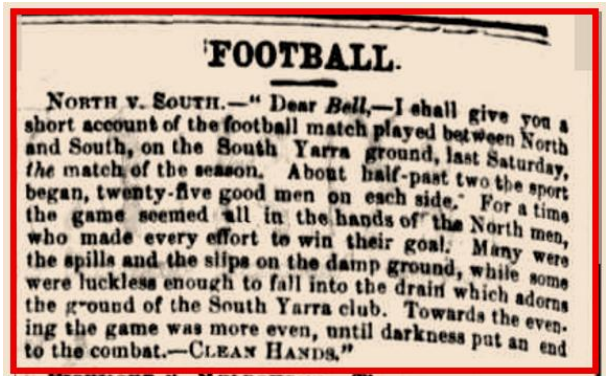
Originally known as Canvas Town, it had adopted the name Emerald Hill due to the strong Irish influence.

[72] The exclusion of former predominantly Victorian Irish member from Australian rules football accounts for the limited media coverage of teams like North Melbourne/Hotham, Emerald Hill/South Melbourne, Collingwood, Fitzroy, Footscray, and Williamstown in newspapers during that era.
[73] The Sydney Swans Football Club, currently competing in the top tier of Australian Rules football League, is essentially the same as the Emerald d Hill Football Club, which was established in 1858.
[74] Blucher, P, 2017, Our History: South Melbourne Foundation. Historian Peter Blucher explores the foundations of our club right back to the early days in South Melbourne. Source: Sydney Swans, Official Website. May11, 2017.
[75] The Irish influence on the inaugural Australian rules game began with Rafferty's rules "gravel-match" in South Yarra in July 1856, stemming from two waves. The first wave started in 1836 with St. Patrick's Day football matches, and the second emerged in 1858 at Graham's Paddock when the Templemore Citizen-Garrison Rules from Tipperary reached North Melbourne, brought by migrants from Templemore who joined the North Melbourne Club.
[76] The Melbourne newspapers' neglect of the Victorian Irish club's influence on Australian rules football from 1856 to 1866 contributed to the erasure of Irish and Marn-Grook impacts on the sport This oversight persisted until the VFA's establishment in 1877 and was worsened by heritage articles starting in 1934 that favoured Eton rules, overshadowing the original "Rafferty's Rules" from July 1856. Today, such opinions would be seen as mere social media posts.

Since 1934 a near absolute white wash of the Irish [77] and Marn-Grook influence on Australian rules football is evident with only recently Marn-Grook regaining it deserved prominence as an influencer on the Australian rules style of game. [78] [79] [80] Nevertheless, some scant artefacts survive and what was able to be retrieved subsequently submitted in this book.

Important early naming antecedents for North Melbourne Football Club and others

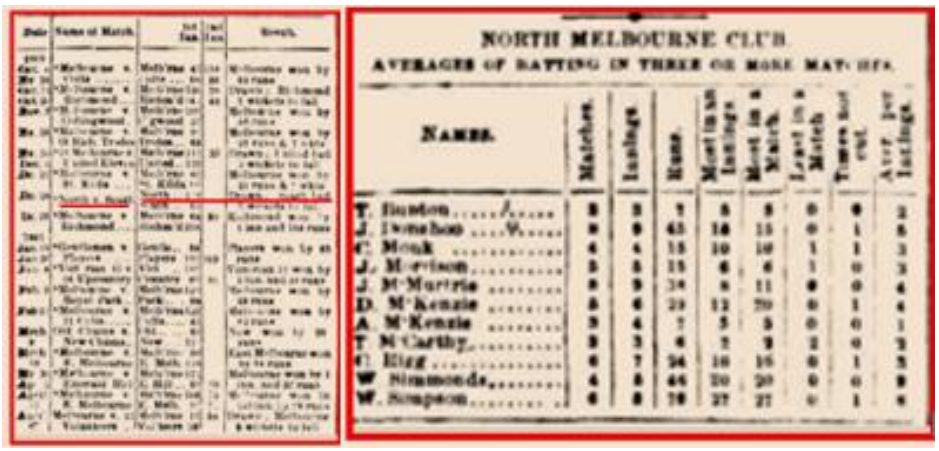
On July 27, 1861, Bell's Life [81] reported a match between a team called "North" from the area north of the Yarra and another team named "South" from the southern side of the river. The football club "South" mentioned in the article is clearly South Yarra Football Club. Prima facie it is evident the distractor football club South Melbourne was not founded until 1867. The latter however, synonymous after 1869 as the club colloquially referred to by Melbournians and footballer lovers as "South:"



FOOTBALL.

NORTH v. SOUTH.—"Dear *Bell*,—I shall give you a short account of the football match played between North and South, on the South Yarra ground, last Saturday, *the* match of the season. About half-past two the sport began, twenty-five good men on each side. For a time the game seemed all in the hands of the North men, who made every effort to win their goal. Many were the spills and the slips on the damp ground, while some were luckless enough to fall into the drain which adorns the ground of the South Yarra club. Towards the evening the game was more even, until darkness put an end to the combat.—CLEAN HANDS."

It is very likely the club "North" referred to above is the North Melbourne Football Club. The present author acknowledges that whilst some uncertainty persists evidence from other 1861 Melbourne newspaper indicates that the South Yarra Cricket Club also played against a cricket club named "North" and made further definitely, the North Melbourne Cricket Club:



NORTH MELBOURNE CLUB.

AVERAGES OF BATTING IN THREE OR MORE MATCHES.

NAMES.	Matches.	Innings.	Runs.	Most in an Innings.	Most in a Match.	Least in a Match.	Times not out.	Average per Innings.
T. Buston	3	3	7	5	5	0	0	2
J. Donahoo	3	3	45	18	15	0	1	15
C. Monk	4	4	15	10	10	1	1	3
J. Morrison	3	3	15	6	6	1	0	3
J. M'Morrie	3	3	34	8	11	0	0	4
D. M'Kenzie	3	3	29	13	29	0	1	4
A. M'Kenzie	3	4	7	5	5	0	0	1
T. M'Carthy	3	3	6	3	3	2	0	2
C. Rigg	3	3	24	16	16	0	1	8
W. Simmonds	4	5	46	20	20	0	0	9
W. Simpson	3	3	19	17	17	0	1	6

[77] This neglect likely resulted a lack of acknowledgment of their own competitions and may have obscured their richer and earlier histories. Since 1934, the Irish and Marn-grook influences have been largely erased from the early history of Australian football.

[78] Avery, S, 2024, Statement of Recommendation from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria Rules of the Melbourne Football Club, PROV H2428, 18th November, 2024.

[79] Flanagan, M (1998, p8). The Call. St. Leonards, Australia: Allen & Unwin. ISBN 0-9757708-0-2.

[80] de Moore, G.M. (2005), Victoria University. from Football Fever. Crossing Boundaries. Maribyrnong Press.

[81] FOOTBALL, NORTH v SOUTH, Bell's Life in Victoria and Sporting Chronicle, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 27th July 1861, Page 2.

The cricket club's naming conventions, using "North" [82] for "North Melbourne," were similarly applied across both the club's football and cricket branches. This included the interchangeable use of names like Hotham and Hotham United, as early as 1860 but particularly during the mid-1870s to 1888.[83] [84] [85] [86]

Additionally, the football branches of the South Yarra and North Melbourne clubs mentioned in the cricket table above are found to have competed against each other in the football Challenge Cup twice. These matches in 1861 and 1865 represent North's only two documented Challenge Cup games found in contemporary newspaper archives for the period 1861-1869.

Further referring to the same cricket table above, the Emerald Hill and South Melbourne Cricket Clubs listed were separate entities in 1861. In 1862 they merged and dropped the Emerald Hill name preferring adoption of the name South Melbourne Cricket Club.

During the period 1862-1867 its football branch remained named Emerald Hill because the absorbed South Melbourne Cricket Club did not have a football club. In 1867 and independently raised club named South Melbourne come on to the scene. [87] It did not last long and was swallowed up in 1868 by Emerald Hill Football Club. Then, the football operations branch of the South Melbourne Cricket Club, was the Emerald Hill Cricket Club. In 1869, the football club changed its name also from Emerald Hill Football Club to the South Melbourne Football Club,[88] now known as Sydney Swans. Sydney Swans playing in the national elite AFL competition was therefore the Emerald Hill Football Club founded in 1858.

This supposition is supported by the Casey South Melbourne Cricket Club present references that 1862 is the year of its formation, consistent with fresh evidence that it descends from both the South Melbourne and Emerald Hill Cricket Clubs playing in 1861.[89]

1862

Football writers during the 1860s and 1870s are further to be in habit of interchanging arbitrarily, and without explanation, the North Melbourne Cricket Club and North Melbourne Football Club branches by the names of "Hotham" 'North," "Northerners" or at least on one separate occasion calling the club the "Norseman."

In 1862 the cricket writer of the article below preferred to call North Melbourne club's cricket branch as the "Hotham" Cricket Club. This appears to be a common occurrence. Noting that in 1879, the courts placed the football branch in control of the North Melbourne Club.

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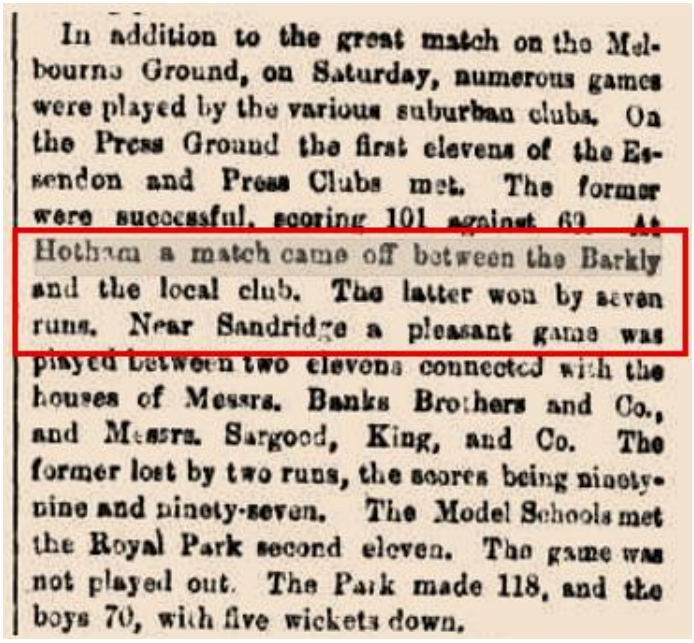
[82] Ibid Dowling G, 1972, 1997.
[83] CRICKET HOTHAM CC The Argus Melbourne, Victoria, Tuesday 6th November 1860, Page 5.
[84] CRICKET, HOTHAM CRICKET CLUB, The Age, Melbourne, Victoria, Wednesday 30th July 1873, Page 4.
85 CRICKET, HOTHAM v FITZROY, Leader Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 27th November 1886, Page 20.
[86] CRICKET, HOTHAM UNITED v LINCOLN in ROYAL PARK, The Herald, Melbourne, Victoria, Friday 26 April 1872, Page 3.
[87] FOOTBALL, SOUTH MELBOURNE FOOTBALL CLUB, Bell's Life in Victoria and Sporting Chronicle, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 25th May 1867, Page 4.
[88] FOOTBALL EMERALD D HILL CLUB NAME CHANGE TO SOUTH MELBOURNE FOOTBALL CLUB, The Australasian, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday May 1869, Page 12.
[89] The Casey-South Melbourne Cricket Club (CSMCC), established 1862, https://www.caseysouthmelbournecricketclub.com.au/.

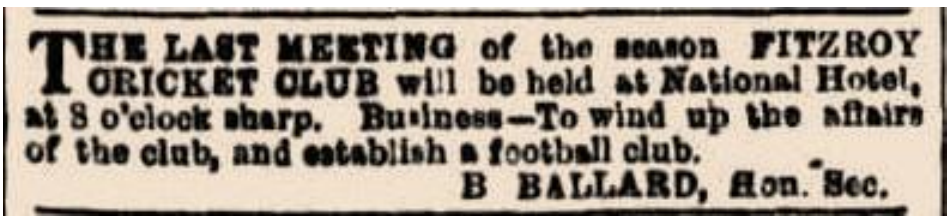
This relegated the cricket branch "Hotham" as a non-controlling branch of the North Melbourne club making the football club the senior branch and in control of the club's governance, from 1879.

From an operationally perspective the cricket club in 1862 is found active in competition in winning their match on Saturday 1st March 1862 at home [Royal Park] against Barkly Cricket Club and well established as Fitzroy Football Club by 1864: [90] [91]



In addition to the great match on the Melbourne Ground, on Saturday, numerous games were played by the various suburban clubs. On the Press Ground the first elevens of the Essendon and Press Clubs met. The former were successful, scoring 101 against 69. At Hotham a match came off between the Barkly and the local club. The latter won by seven runs. Near Sandridge a pleasant game was played between two elevens connected with the houses of Messrs. Banks Brothers and Co., and Messrs. Sargood, King, and Co. The former lost by two runs, the scores being ninety-nine and ninety-seven. The Model Schools met the Royal Park second eleven. The game was not played out. The Park made 118, and the boys 70, with five wickets down.

In 1862, the Fitzroy Football Club was established, uniquely originating from the Fitzroy Cricket Club, [92]which transformed itself from a cricket club into a football club, thereby abandoning its original identity: [93] [94] [95] [96] [97] [98]



THE LAST MEETING of the season FITZROY CRICKET CLUB will be held at National Hotel, at 8 o'clock sharp. Business—To wind up the affairs of the club, and establish a football club.
B BALLARD, Hon. Sec.

[90] CRICKET, Hotham Cricket Club v Barkly Cricket Club, The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria, Monday 3rd March 1862, Page 4, Monday, March 3, 1862.
[91] FOOTBALL, ROYAL PARK v FITZROY, Bell's Life in Victoria and Sporting Chronicle, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 13th August 1864, Page 4.
[92] https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/5709383
[93] CRICKET, FITZROY CRICKET CLUB WINDS UP TO ESTABLISH A FOOTBALL CLUB, the Argus, Melbourne, Victoria, Tuesday 6th May 1862.
[94] Leydon D, 2023, Fitzroy Football Club - Celebrating 140 years of Fitzroy football [requires update based on fresh evidence, presumptive positive].
[95] Fitzroy Football Club, whilst an outlier to this study is likely also have lost relevance as a continuous club since 1862 obscured by name changes.
[96] Fitzroy first changed it names to the Normandy Football Club.
[97] In 1881 it rejuvenated itself dropping the name Normandy to revert back partially to its original name by calling its self the Fitzroy Alberts Football Club (first-20) and Fitzroy Juniors (second-20) team.
[98] Successive President John McMahon was at the helm also for the following year, 1882, when the cube removed "Alberts" from its name to fully embrace its original identity.

The Fitzroy Cricket Club that exists today, along with its social connections to the Fitzroy Football Club since the 1883 edition, is not the same cricket club that transformed into the football club.

The Fitzroy Football Club, originally formed in 1862, has its roots in the Fitzroy Cricket Club, established in 1860. In 1862, the cricket club transitioned into a football club after a decision by its members. During the mid-1870s, it absorbed the Normandy Football Club and initially dropped the name Fitzroy until 1881 when it became Fitzroy Alberts for one season, while also fielding a second team known as Fitzroy Juniors. In 1882, under the leadership of President Mr. John McMahon, who was at the helm the club was known for a while as Normandy and then Fitzroy Alberts, a formal constitution was established, which was necessary for any to apply to join the VFA. In that constitution, the club reclaimed its original name, the Fitzroy Football Club.

Also in 1862, the Collingwood Football Club was in existence and possibly founded as early as 1860 raised by its cricket club. [99] [100] [101] While the author acknowledges that confusion surrounding the true identity of the Collingwood and Fitzroy Football Clubs blurred by the 1870s will likely continue, [102] [103] [104] both Collingwood and Fitzroy football clubs existed continually ever since 1862.

It is important to note that the establishment of a formal constitution for any organization, including football clubs, does not necessarily reflect the organization's founding date. For instance, the Melbourne Football Club was founded in 1858, and this remains true even though it was officially the following year, in 1859. This simply indicates that the organisation has progressed and has become more adept at documenting its purpose, rights, responsibilities and obligations and that of its members and players.

North Melbourne Football Club, in contrast to Melbourne, was established before 1858 and took two decades to formalise its constitution. Similar to Fitzroy and Collingwood, which came later, this process was mainly undertaken to bolster their application to join the VFA.

In summary, when considering the evidence, the limited media coverage of the predominantly Victorian Irish based membership clubs in the North, East, West Belt, and Emerald Hill, such as the South Melbourne Football Club, contrasts sharply with the extensive attention given to the mainly British born membership clubs huddled along the Yarra River. This suggests that newspapers in the 1860s and 1870s were less inclined to cover the Victorian Irish Australian rules clubs, opting instead to highlight the ex-British clubs. As a result, the Yarra River clubs received far more written coverage during their early years compared to their counterparts.

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[99] CRICKET, PEEP O'DAY v COLLINGWOOD, The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 20th December 1856, Page 7.

[100] Collingwood Football Club, Argus, Melbourne, Victoria, Friday 9th May 1862.

[101] COLLINGWOOD v EMERALD D HILL and MELBOURNE v RICHMOND, Bell's Life in Victoria and Sporting Chronicle, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 16th June 1860, Page 2.

[102] Brittania JFC formed prior to 1877 coinciding with the Collingwood club absents from newspaper records since about 1873.

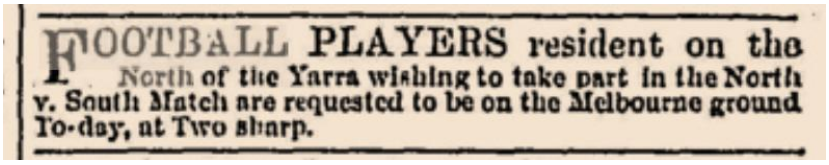
[103] C.f., OLD PLAYERS' REUNION, The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria, Monday 20th July 1925, Page 17.

[104] Collingwood Football Club, founded in 1862, may have its history overshadowed by its name change to Britannia. In 1892, similar to Fitzroy's absorption of the Normandy Football Club in the 1870s and later reclaiming its name established in 1862, or earlier if we are to count its unusual cricket club heritage, Collingwood was allowed to use the name and established constitution to join the VFA as a senior club in 1892. The Britannia Junior club lingered for 15 years post 1892 before vanishing around 1907, while Collingwood thrived in VFA, VFL, and AFL.

The limited attention given to the Victorian Irish clubs by the newspapers and subsequently modern football historians, such as North Melbourne, South Melbourne (formerly Emerald Hill), Collingwood, Fitzroy, and later Footscray and Williamstown Football Clubs, likely led the incomplete or inconsistent heritage records associated with them dating back to 1860. This challenges the idea that these clubs became inactive or defunct merely due to having fewer articles compared to the British-born clubs around the Yarra River.

North v South in 1862

On Saturday 9th August 1862 [105] another game was organised between North v South[106] playing a where it cannot be ruled out the referral is also to North [Melbourne, district] v South [Melbourne, district]: [107] [108] [109]


FOOTBALL PLAYERS resident on the North of the Yarra wishing to take part in the North v. South Match are requested to be on the Melbourne ground To-day, at Two sharp.

This intriguing advertisement above announces clearly that come-one, come-all, style representative football was part of the Melbourne football scene in 1862. The advertisement encourages "residents' from Melbourne, North and South of the Yarra River to complete in a match at the Melbourne ground scheduled to start a 2pm sharp on Saturday 9th August 1862:[110]

The author recognises that some individuals representing the North may have been affiliated with the North Football Club. Considering the tough nature of the game in 1862, it is probable that those eager to join were aware that their fellow players had significant experience.

It is fairly presumed that each participant on the field had essential athletic abilities, giving them the confidence to step up as representatives. Furthermore, residing north of the Yarra, an area with a football culture and high population density, was also a significant factor in the assumption that many those who played for "North" were likely players of the North Melbourne Football Club.

For these reasons, the author preserves the names of at least 32 who took to the field that day against "South" below, suspecting that some may later be identified as players from the North Melbourne Football Club: Wooley, Woolley, Wardill, Wardill, Campbell, Campbell, McHard, McHard, Thompson, Hope, Russell, McPherson, Conway, Tait, Lucas, May, Welsch, Sheils, Hammersley, McKenzie, King, Smith, Perraton, Templeton, Mocadom, Koowortby, Alanite, Hurat, Blanchard, Nicholls, Purcell, and Hetherington.

[105] Bell's Life in Victoria and Sporting Chronicle, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday August 1862, Page 4, FOOTBALL.
[106] Selby, I., 1924, p307, History of Melbourne Revisited, "Russell's Map, shown in this book, is but a sample of the excellent work done by all, Hoddle, Darke, and William Wedge. On the first plan. North Melbourne is the whole area north of the Yarra, and South Melbourne the whole area south of the Yarra.
[107] Smith, J, 1903, p3, The Cyclopedia of Victoria: An Historical and Commercial Review - Descriptive and Biographical Facts, Figures and Illustrations: An Epitome of Progress.
[108] Ditto the present author's deduction North v South are district representative team for both sides of the Yarra.
[109] See also FOOTBALL, NORTH V SOUTH 9th AUGUST 1862, Bell's Life in Victoria and Sporting Chronicle, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 2nd August 1862, Page 3.
[110] Bell's Life in Victoria and Sporting Chronicle, August 9th 1862, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.

1863

While early mainstream newspapers in Melbourne failed to cover North Melbourne Football Club games 1863, it is known that North participated in friendly matches against other clubs within a cluster of predominantly Irish teams. The Irish clubs adopted a different "Templemore" convention from 1858, despite their ongoing competition being overlooked by the press.

This variant of Australian rules football played by the Irish clubs has deeper roots in Australia than the Templemore convention, tracing back to the original "gravel rash" game played in South Yarra. In July 1856, an inclusive match was held in what would become Fawkner Park, with many attendees likely hailing from Graham's Paddock, humorously referred to in newspapers as Rafferty's Rules.

1864

In 1864, a football writer from Melbourne, known as "Free Kick," raised discussion claiming the English Eton rugby rules were far better variant of the Australian rules game compared to other local variants he failed to name. His tone of his article was such he wrote proudly showcasing his Englishness of Australian rules football played from 1858 to 1863 and for all things England. His writing reflects a nuanced anti-Irish sentiment and a pro-England stance.[111]

Recognised from different sources are that St Mary's Church of England established in Hotham in 1853,[112] [113]and considered here as one of a number of small church schools competing in public sports competitions fielding cricket and football teams playing in Graham's Paddock from as early as 1854. [114]

Evidence from Dowling's 1973 and 1997 research has the school boys for St Mary's well versed in Australian rules games, with its students primarily consisting of Victorian Irish from an Anglo-Celtic background and their parents previously Church of Ireland by the year 1864.

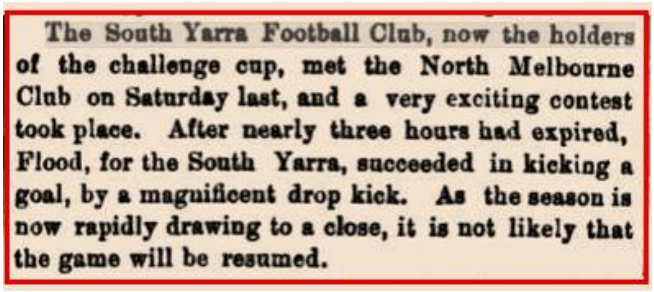
This notion was confirmed by St Mary School in a 2022 consultation the author had with their administrator uncovering the school's early involvement playing against public schools established in Melbourne during the 1850s and 1860s and competing in the Lyons Cup competition throughout the 1870s. [115]

[111] FOOTBALL, Bell's Life in Victoria and Sporting Chronicle, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 14th May 1864, Page 2.
[112] The Early History of North Melbourne: Origins of the Town, Hotham History Project, Royal Historical Society of Victoria. https://www.hothamhistory.org.au/the-early-history-of-north-melbourne/.
[113] Richards, J & St. Mary's Church of England (North Melbourne, Vic.). Centenary Committee. (1953). St. Mary's Church of England, North Melbourne, 1853-1953: Centenary Souvenir. [North Melbourne, Victoria: Centenary Committee]. National Library of Australia, Bib ID: 1091103.
[114] Associated Public Schools of Victoria Celebrating 100 Years 1908-2008, Some Early Games [St Mary's Anonymous and other small church schools anonymous, p14, 2008.
[115] Consultation with the Administrator (anonymous) St Mary's Anglican Parish, North Melbourne Anglican Parish, 2022.

1865

Further, in 1865 it is learned that the Athletic Sports Committee (ASC) determined they would offer a handsome "Challenge Cup" to the senior football club which wins three consecutive challenge games to become the proprietors of it. It explains that the previous year Geelong Football Club won the cup of a similar kind, taken to be the Caledonian Cup, and are found in the 1865 article to have been challenged to play the Melbourne Football Club in the "The first game of the [1865 Challenge Cup] season." [116]

This signalled a break in the limited Challenge Cup competition when, after the Victorian Irish clubs were found excluded per se for the years 1861-1865, one them, the North Melbourne Club, permitted to challenge South Yarra for the trophy in 1865 and not since 1861 had it played in the series and then, it was also against the South Yarra Club in 1861. The 1865 re-match was left undecided after play continued across several Saturday afternoons.[117] [118]


The South Yarra Football Club, now the holders of the challenge cup, met the North Melbourne Club on Saturday last, and a very exciting contest took place. After nearly three hours had expired, Flood, for the South Yarra, succeeded in kicking a goal, by a magnificent drop kick. As the season is now rapidly drawing to a close, it is not likely that the game will be resumed.

1866

In 1866, the introduction of "Victorian Rules" [119] marked a significant evolution in rules football, contributing to the decline of the "Eton Rules" and "1859 Melbourne Rules." Clubs with former British members along the Yarra River began to adopt local styles, particularly those influenced by the Victorian Irish version by the North Melbourne Football Club in Park. Other clubs in the area later became known as the North Melbourne Electorate Corridor which had also previously emerged, continued to competing in the shadow competition to the challenge cup series played by clubs predominantly with British born members and players.

North started drawing significant crowds interested in their free-flow, aerial style of marking, long-kicking, and running games. Although it took some time, respectively in 1872 and again in 1874, North, representing other clubs also in their region, as well as Emerald Hill come South Melbourne Football Club who all played in the same style, participated in revising the Victorian Rules. North was effectively represented at the meetings by John McIndoe, alongside the talented footballer of the day, Lochie Bracken, a Templemore-born player and secretary of the Albert Park Football Club.[120] [121]

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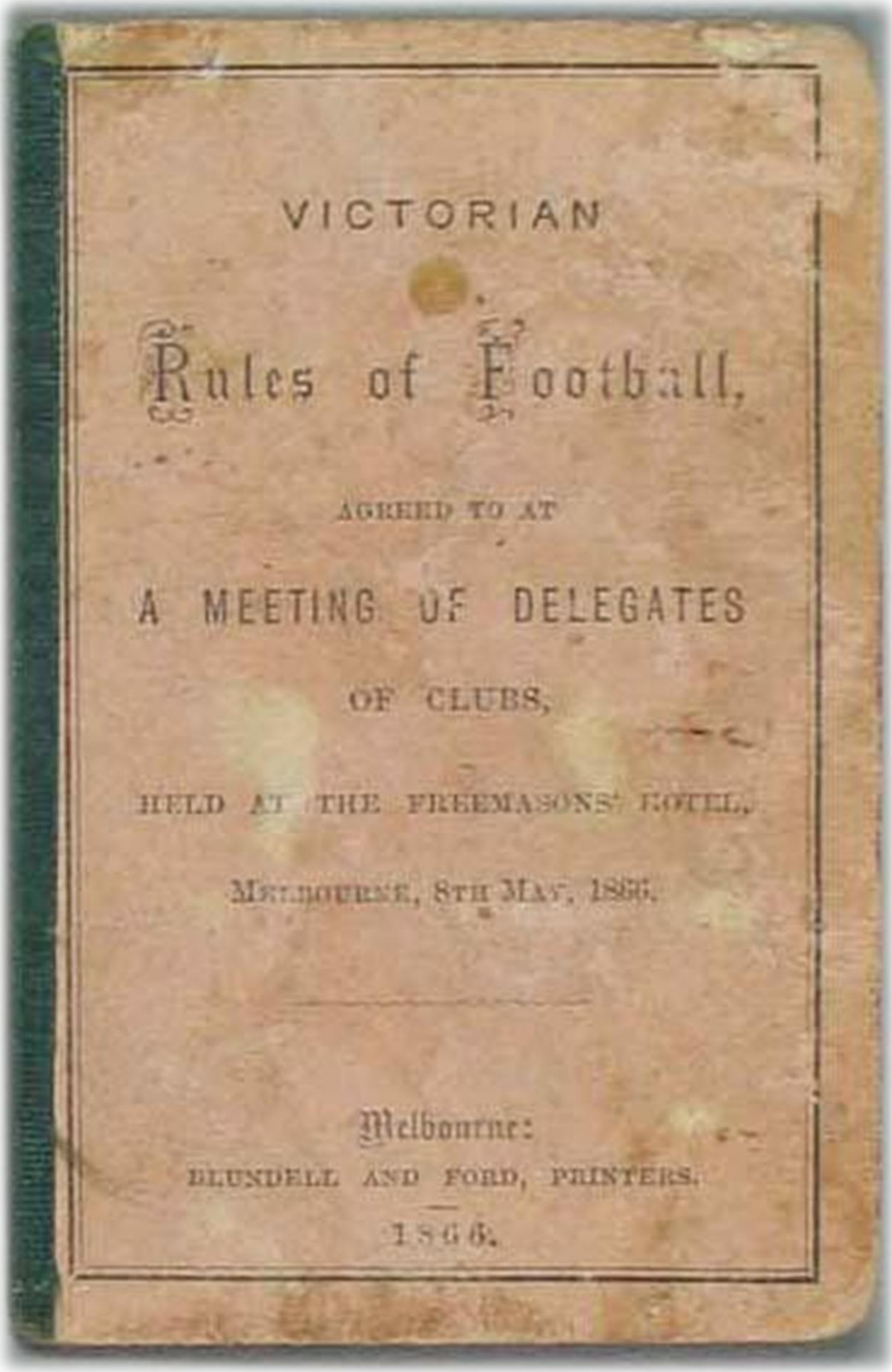
[116] The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria, Monday 1st May 1865, Page 4-5.
[117] THE NEWS OF THE DAY, SOUTH YARRA v NORTH MELBOURNE, The Age, Melbourne, Victoria, Monday 4th September 1865, Page 5.
[118] It appears a friendly relationship between the two clubs North Melbourne and South Yarra Football Clubs existed from 1861 through to at least 1865.
[119] Image overleaf attributed to Melbourne Cricket Club (MCC) Victorian Rules of Football dated 8 May 1866, **Registration No:** M16535. 8 May, 1866.
[120] The Australasian, May 16, 1874., "Victorian Rules of Football" in Power, Thomas P. [ed.].
[121] RULES OF FOOTBALL AMENDED. The Australasian, Melbourne, Saturday 25 May 1872, Page 12.



VICTORIAN

Rules of Football,

AGREED TO AT

A MEETING OF DELEGATES

OF CLUBS,

HELD AT THE FREEMASONS' HOTEL,

MELBOURNE, 8TH MAY, 1866.

Melbourne:

BLUNDELL AND FORD, PRINTERS.

1866.

Mr. George Frederick Bowen, co-founder of the Carlton Football Club and a newspaperman who later moved to Perth, provided valuable insights into the nature of these rules.

As a sports journalist, Bowen praised the developments in Melbourne in 1866 but regretted that the delegates did not adopt the practice of having 15 per side, a feature from the Templemore rules in East Mun, Tipperary, since 1847, which had been showcased by North Melbourne and other Irish clubs in Royal Park during the early 1860s.[122] [123] George Frederick Bowen co-founder of the Carlton Football club, a.k.a, "*Nunquam Dormio*," is pictured below:

1867

On Saturday, June 1, 1867, Bell's Life, a Melbourne newspaper, acknowledged the existence of other football clubs, beyond the well-known ones along the Yarra River, and as far as South Yarra, St Kilda, and Elsternwick. In Bell's article the "Union" club, East Melbourne Football Club, the University Football Club, and the Fitzroy Football Club were all mentioned playing matches in 1867. [124]

Club name changes coincided with several attempts on the life of Queen Victoria who gave her name to the Colony of Victoria. [125] It is supposed Melbournians, were most concerned at the time for Queen Victoria and rallied so to speak by changing club names as public display of local solidarity for the Crown. This reflects, perhaps, why South Melbourne replaced "Emerald" Hill in 1869, and why the very English name Fitzroy with Norman/French origins nevertheless, took the name Normandy, and Collingwood preferring Brittania around the mid-1870s.

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[122] Bracken, P, PhD, 2014, p279.

[123] In 1840, a note in the *Tipperary Free Press* indicated that the Board of Ordnance had directed that cricket pitches were to be laid down in Templemore, in *Tipperary Free Press*, 22 April 1840.

[124] Fitzroy Football Club is believed to have taken the name Normandy, held by its local merger partner club Fitzroy absorbed. Or because the name was closely associated with the Royal connection of Fitzroy to Normandy and for the time publicly showed support for Queen Victoria then in the 1870s known to have survived several assentation attempts by radicals. Also, in the 1870s the Collingwood Football Club took a similar position adopting the name Britannia. South Melbourne Football Club, which originated as the Emerald d Hill Football Club in 1858, had already dropped its Irish iconic "Emerald" nomenclature but is found by tracing these matters giving the Sydney Swans an establishment or founding year of 1858 rather than 1872.

[125] St. Aubyn, Giles (1991), pp. 385–386; Queen Victoria: A Portrait, London: Sinclair-Stevenson.

The article further highlighted 16 players from the Melbourne Football Club competing against 20 members of Her Majesty 14th Regiment, with the military team victorious.

This suggests even the strongest or best promoted of predominantly ex-Brit membership and player-based clubs such as Melbourne Football Club began to appreciate a smaller number of players fixed, or adjusted by agreement to equalise competition, because it enhanced the game and interest among spectators – something long known to [126] the former Victorian Irish based Australian rules' clubs.

1868

After the football season in 1867 concluded, the North Melbourne Cricket Club moved away from Royal Park ground it had shared for a decade with its football branch of the North Melbourne Club to occupy as a squatter so to speak, the paddock which was in Aden Street from the start of 1867/68 cricket season. They did so without obtaining a lease from the Melbourne Council which they later obtained in 1873.[127]

The Melbourne Council acknowledges that the North Melbourne Football Club has existed, albeit modestly, since before 1858, linked to the club's first branch, the cricket club existing before 22nd November 1855. Since the football club's inception at Royal Park, it has reliably managed the grounds, covered its expenses, and acted as a responsible leaseholder.

This commitment continued even after 1882, when the football club assumed responsibility for the developed Arden Street Oval, now known as the Hotham Recreational Reserve.[128]

This documented history offers proof of a distinct aspect of the North Melbourne Football Club's earlier existence and its uninterrupted continuity from 1858 to 1882. Today, the North Melbourne Football Club still maintains the Arden Street lease training, AFLW games, [129]and its administrative headquarters.

At the football operations level, from the 1868 season the North Melbourne Football Club remained the sole leaseholder of Royal Park until they their final match at the original Royal Park ground in April 1882. During this time, their ground in Royal Park was esteemed and envied by the nomadic Carlton Football Club, which played on the less developed fields in Royal Park and other locations, including University Paddock on Madeline Street. It wasn't until 1888 that Carlton established a permanent presence in Royal Park, when a section was designated and named Princes Park.

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[126] Bell's Life in Victoria, Saturday the 1st June 1867.

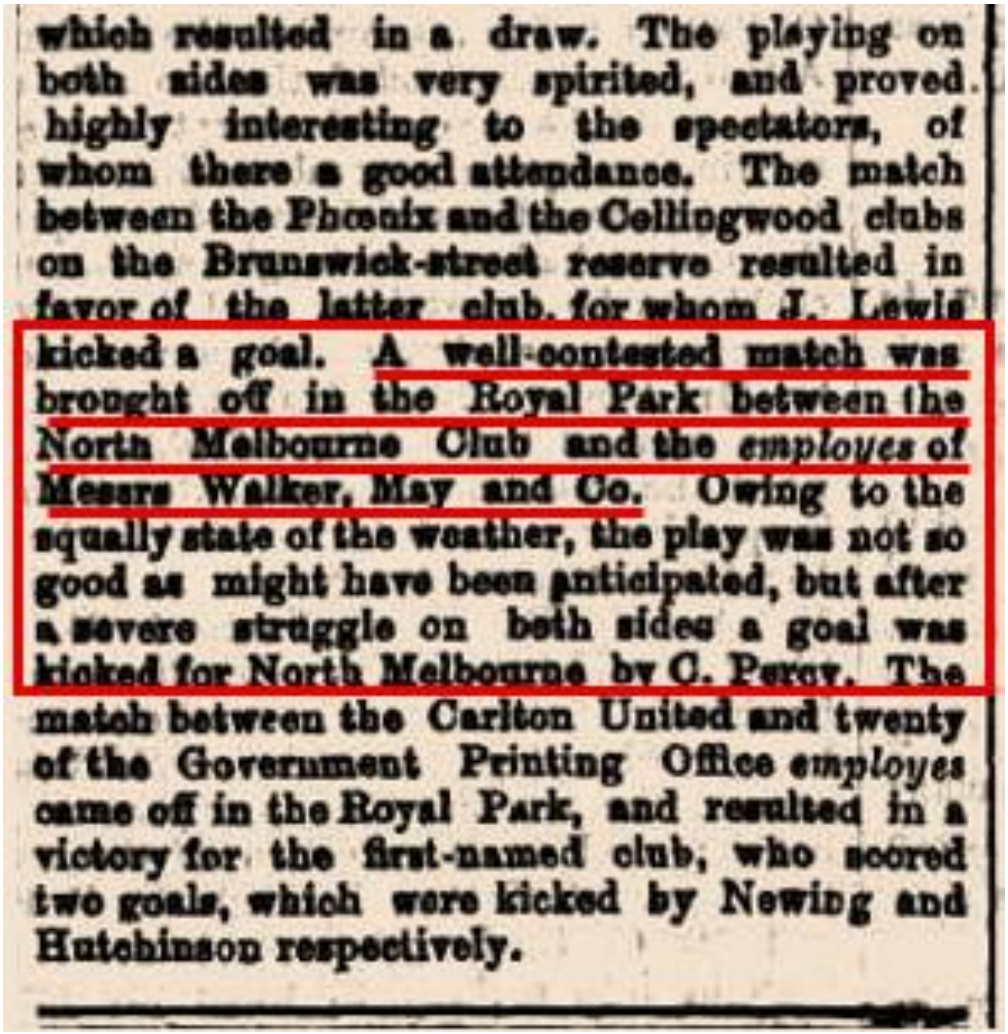
[127] North Melbourne Cricket Club, established 1855, first played their home games on Graham's Paddock near the Benevolent Society until 1859/60 season when Royal Park came available for their cricket and football playing use, Melbourne's Chief Playgrounds, No. 2., "North Melbourne" by F.M., The Age, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 13th May 1933, Page 18.

[128] NORTH MELBOURNE FOOTBALL CLUB RIGHTS TO ARDEN STREET OVAL, The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria, Wednesday 29th July 1936, Page 12.

[129] For the birth of the AFL Women's elite national competition, refer: Black, S, 2017, The Journey So Far - Evolution of the AFLW, AFL Official Website. https://www.afl.com.au/news/50722/the-journey-so-far-evolution-of-the-aflw.

Throughout 1868 North Melbourne continued to play in Royal Park by fielding teams of 15 or 16 players per side including intra-club scratch match games and against other ex-Victorian Irish member clubs, Collingwood, Fitzroy, South Melbourne (Emerald Hill) Footscray, and Williamstown and more likely than not Carlton also who welcomed the 15-16 player per side format. [130]

North Melbourne Football Club are recorded defeating the employer company football team, Messrs Walker, May & Company on Saturday 7th August 1868. North Melbourne player, C. Perry is credited with scoring the sole goal secured victory for North: [131]



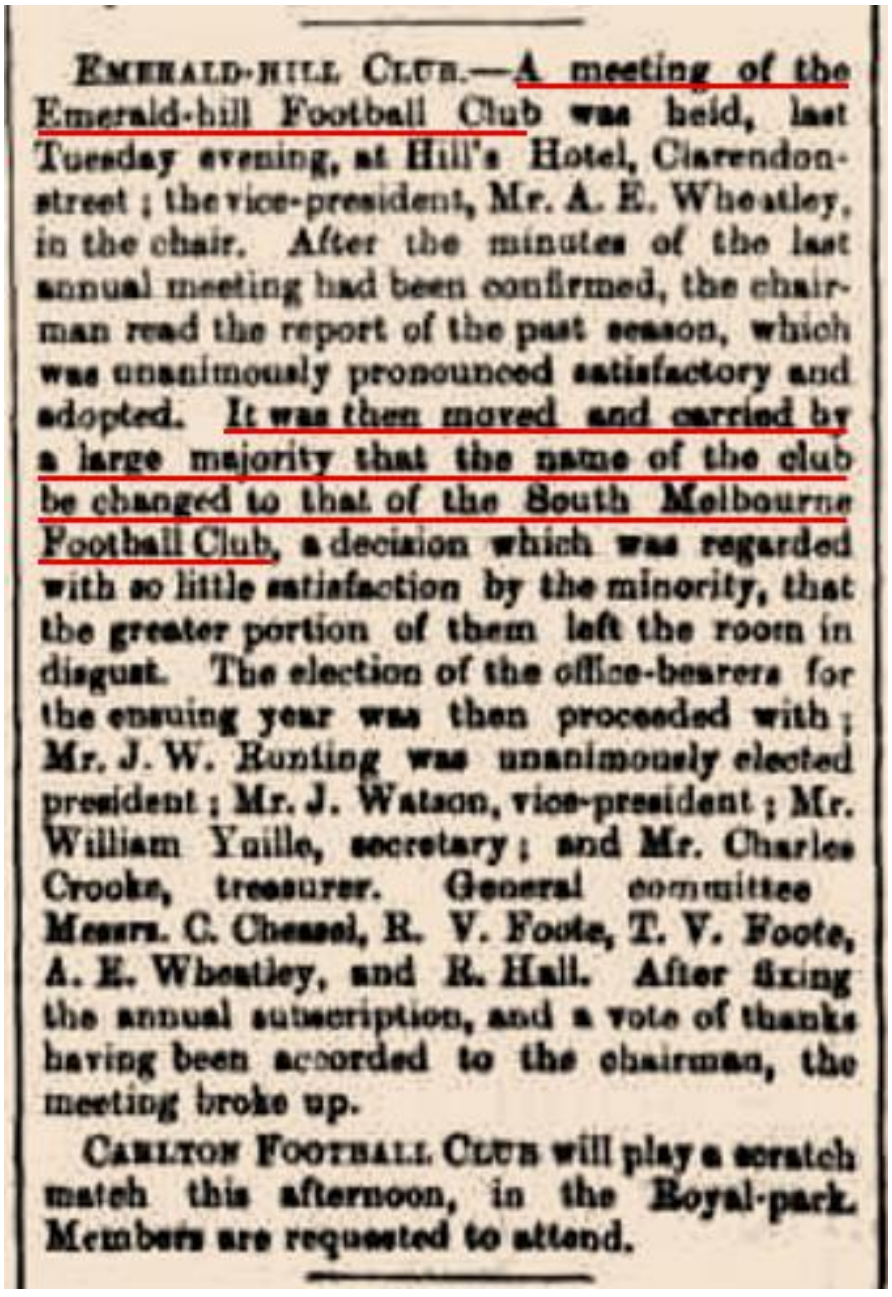
which resulted in a draw. The playing on both sides was very spirited, and proved highly interesting to the spectators, of whom there a good attendance. The match between the Phœnix and the Collingwood clubs on the Brunswick-street reserve resulted in favor of the latter club, for whom J. Lewis kicked a goal. A well-contested match was brought off in the Royal Park between the North Melbourne Club and the *employes* of Messrs Walker, May and Co. Owing to the squally state of the weather, the play was not so good as might have been anticipated, but after a severe struggle on both sides a goal was kicked for North Melbourne by C. Percy. The match between the Carlton United and twenty of the Government Printing Office *employes* came off in the Royal Park, and resulted in a victory for the first-named club, who scored two goals, which were kicked by Newing and Hutchinson respectively.

[130] The pre-match agreement between competing clubs regarding the number of players on the field was generally consistent when senior (first team) faced off against one another. When a first team played against a competitor's second team, which was common before the introduction of the VFA, captains would agree on how many additional players the second team could have on the field. In 1868, following the introduction of the more ethnic inclusive expanded Victorian Rules, clubs like Melbourne, which had ex-British members in the majority, were also playing with 16 players and permitting junior competitors to field more players. This practice was quite common at the time.

[131] FOOTBALL, North Melbourne and Messrs Walker, May and Co., Leader, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 7th August 1869, Page 10.

1869

On Tuesday, April 26, 1869, a group of members from the Emerald Hill Football Club left the Annual Meeting in frustration over the successful proposal to officially change the club's name to South Melbourne Football Club. The motion was approved, and the Emerald Hill Football Club, established in 1858 [132] having merged the previous year with the newly formed South Melbourne Club, adopted its name was recorded the following week as South Melbourne Football Club defeating Williamstown Grammar: [133]



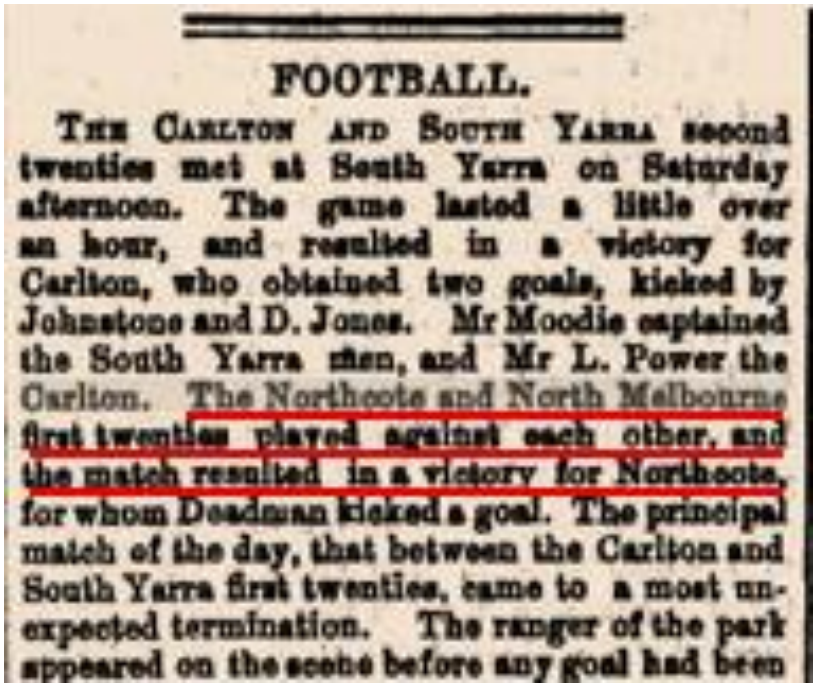
EMERALD-HILL CLUB.—A meeting of the Emerald-hill Football Club was held, last Tuesday evening, at Hill's Hotel, Clarendon-street; the vice-president, Mr. A. E. Wheatley, in the chair. After the minutes of the last annual meeting had been confirmed, the chairman read the report of the past season, which was unanimously pronounced satisfactory and adopted. It was then moved and carried by a large majority that the name of the club be changed to that of the South Melbourne Football Club, a decision which was regarded with so little satisfaction by the minority, that the greater portion of them left the room in disgust. The election of the office-bearers for the ensuing year was then proceeded with; Mr. J. W. Bunting was unanimously elected president; Mr. J. Watson, vice-president; Mr. William Yaille, secretary; and Mr. Charles Crooke, treasurer. General committee Messrs. C. Chessel, R. V. Foote, T. V. Foote, A. E. Wheatley, and R. Hall. After fixing the annual subscription, and a vote of thanks having been accorded to the chairman, the meeting broke up.

CARLTON FOOTBALL CLUB will play a scratch match this afternoon, in the Royal-park. Members are requested to attend.

[132] FOOTBALL EMERALD D HILL CLUB NAME CHANGE TO SOUTH MELBOURNE FOOTBALL CLUB, The Australasian, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday May 1869, Page 12.

[133] FOOTBALL, SOUTH MELBOURNE FOOTBALL CLUBD DEFEAT WILLIAMSTOWN GRAMMAR SCHOOL, Leader, Saturday 8th May 1869, Page 10.

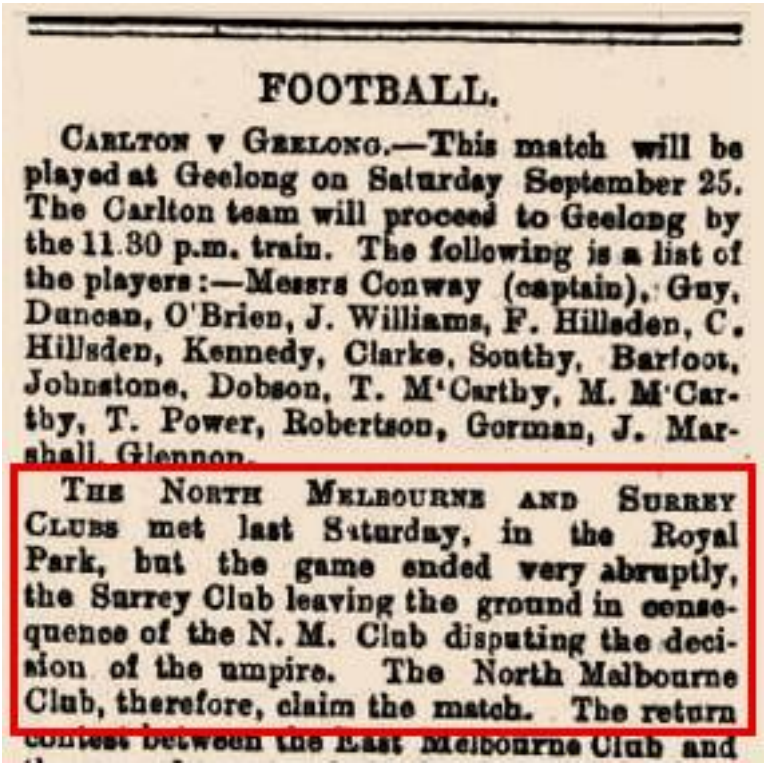
Later in the 1869 season North Melbourne are defeated by the Northcote Football Club on Saturday 21st August 1869: [134]



FOOTBALL.

THE CARLTON AND SOUTH YARRA second twenties met at South Yarra on Saturday afternoon. The game lasted a little over an hour, and resulted in a victory for Carlton, who obtained two goals, kicked by Johnstone and D. Jones. Mr Moodie captained the South Yarra men, and Mr L. Power the Carlton. The Northcote and North Melbourne first twenties played against each other, and the match resulted in a victory for Northcote, for whom Deadman kicked a goal. The principal match of the day, that between the Carlton and South Yarra first twenties, came to a most unexpected termination. The ranger of the park appeared on the scene before any goal had been

On the 25th September 1869, the Surrey Football Club faced off against the North Melbourne Football Club and North emerged victorious, despite the match concluding amid some controversy: [135]



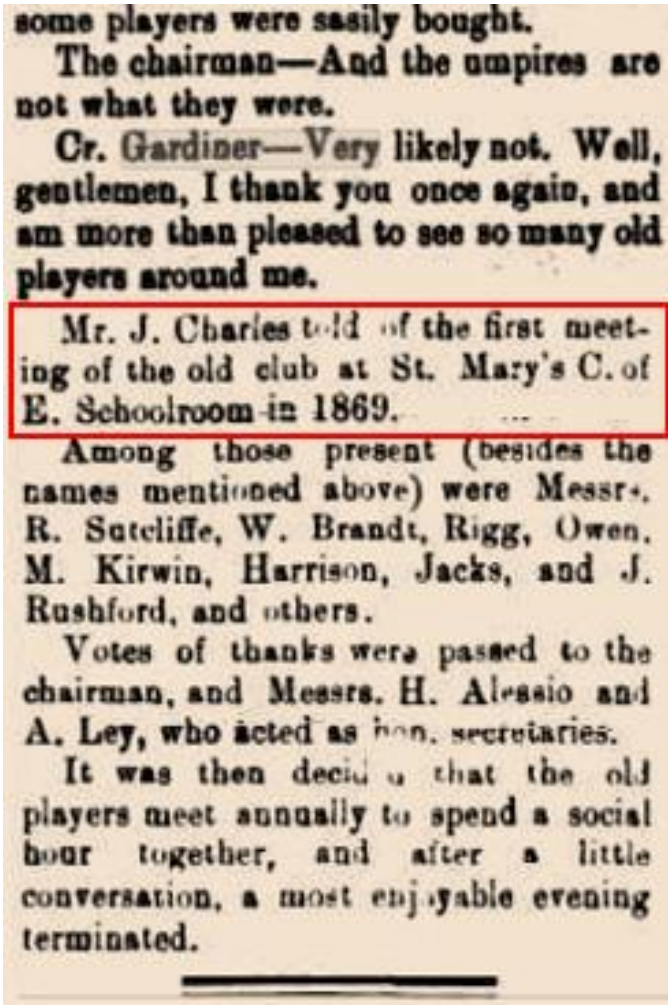
FOOTBALL.

CARLTON v GEELONG.—This match will be played at Geelong on Saturday September 25. The Carlton team will proceed to Geelong by the 11.30 p.m. train. The following is a list of the players:—Messrs Conway (captain), Guy, Duncan, O'Brien, J. Williams, F. Hillsden, C. Hillsden, Kennedy, Clarke, Southy, Barfoot, Johnstone, Dobson, T. M'Carthy, M. M'Carthy, T. Power, Robertson, Gorman, J. Marshall, Glennon.

THE NORTH MELBOURNE AND SURREY CLUBS met last Saturday, in the Royal Park, but the game ended very abruptly, the Surrey Club leaving the ground in consequence of the N. M. Club disputing the decision of the umpire. The North Melbourne Club, therefore, claim the match. The return contest between the East Melbourne Club and

[134] Football, Northcote v North Melbourne, Leader, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 28th August 1869, Page 10.
[135] FOOTBALL, North Melbourne and Surrey Clubs, Leader, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 25th September 1869, Page 9.

1869 committeeman, Mr James Charles, [136] announced publicly North Melbourne Football Club began holding its committee meetings for the first time in St Mary's school room in 1869: [137]



some players were easily bought.

The chairman—And the umpires are not what they were.

Cr. Gardiner—Very likely not. Well, gentlemen, I thank you once again, and am more than pleased to see so many old players around me.

Mr. J. Charles told of the first meeting of the old club at St. Mary's C. of E. Schoolroom in 1869.

Among those present (besides the names mentioned above) were Messrs. R. Sutcliffe, W. Brandt, Rigg, Owen, M. Kirwin, Harrison, Jacks, and J. Rushford, and others.

Votes of thanks were passed to the chairman, and Messrs. H. Alessio and A. Ley, who acted as hon. secretaries.

It was then decided that the old players meet annually to spend a social hour together, and after a little conversation, a most enjoyable evening terminated.

James Charles shared this information in front of his peers at the North Melbourne Football Club in 1913 gathered to honour Mr. James Henry Gardiner. While many have attributed the title of symbolic founder of the North Melbourne Football Club to James Gardiner since 1934, this book reveals the true honor belongs to Francis Thomas Gell, dating back before 1858. Gell was the inaugural President of North, first for the cricket division established before November 22, 1855, and later as the President and founder of the football division formed pre-1858. During this time, James Gardiner was just primary school boy when the original North Melbourne Football Club was founded.

James Charles is also mostly overlooked by football historians as an early pioneer of the North Melbourne Football Club. He also played for North probably from 1868 to at least 1874 and may have remained with the club up until 1883. He is certain to have become the secretary of the formally constituted Richmond Football Club in 1885 and when the Richmond Football Club entered the VFA

[136] Mr. CHARLES, EARLY PIONEER OF THE OLD NORTH MELBOURNE FOOTBALL CLUB, North Melbourne Advertiser, Victoria, Friday 25th June 1886, Page 4 – Much Respected.
[137] "PRESENTATION TO CR. J. H. GARDINER" in the North Melbourne Courier and West Melbourne Advertiser, Friday 5th September 1913, Page 2.

To remember James Charles properly, the author takes the time to present two articles written in 1934 which both included photographs of him with the 1934 secretary of the Richmond club and written to celebrate the Richmond Football Club's jubilee year as a formally constituted club accepted into the VFA. The first is the Argus article of 1934 showing Jim Charles standing along with Jack Smith who was then the present club secretary: [138]

Richmond's Jubilee Year

This is Richmond Football Club's jubilee year, and as it happens to coincide with the Centenary it is the general belief in Richmond that "The Tigers" are predestined for the premiership. Richmond club was founded in 1884, and Mr. Jim Charles, first secretary of the club, although he is 83 years of age, still watches his old club in action. He saw the match at South Melbourne last Saturday. Dur-

Men of Richmond — Mr. J. J. Smith (seated), present secretary of the Richmond Football Club, and Mr. Jim Charles, one of the founders of the club in 1884, and first secretary. Photo. by Allan Studios Pty. Ltd.

ing this week Mr. Charles was photographed with the present secretary of the club, Mr. Jack Smith, who found pleasure in the fact that he is one of the subjects in a picture of such historic interest. Mr. Smith, one of the keenest and ablest of football administrators, told me that Mr. Charles was playing football in 1869 — "long before I was born," Mr. Smith added.

The Sporting Globe article now follows and is very similar in style to the previous article: [139]

By J. M. ROHAN

1884 OVERLOOKS 1934

Mr James Charles (standing), Richmond's first secretary in 1884, and Mr J. J. Smith, the present secretary.

[138] The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 16th June 1934, Page 23, Richmond's Jubilee Year.

[139] Source: Bartlett, R, 2025, Richmond Football Club celebrates 140th birthday. It was on this date in 1885, that James Charles founded the Richmond Football Club, One Richmond, February 20th 2025.

Jim's connection to North Melbourne is important, highlighted in two articles. The Argus notes his football participation in 1869, aligning with Guest archives from 1869 to 1876. Family accounts suggest Will Guest viewed Jim as a talented player and essential mentor for young athletes in 1876.

While 1869 is often cited as the club's formation year, this is disputed by new findings. Dowling acknowledges in his books that 1869 is an estimate, citing limited information the club's early history. However, new evidence indicates the club existed before 1869, with articles the 1930s referencing its activity in the 1860s.

A Melbourne Council record confirms the North Melbourne Club's football and cricket divisions existed in 1858, and a ruling by Sir Isaac Isaacs in 1879 recognise the football club continuous presence from then then and through to 1879.

Uncontentious is the North Melbourne Football Club's ongoing presence since the formation of the VFA to present day in the elite AFL competition as one of the AFL's earliest formed clubs. To ensure transparency however on why the 1869 foundation year must be lifted, here is what Dowling wrote in the 1997 edition of North Story regarding the indicative foundation year of North in 1860:

> *"There had been an attempt to establish a football team in the locality (North Melbourne) five years before (1864), but it had been short lived…*
>
> *The North Melbourne Football Club quite likely did not have an official launching as a formally-constituted organisation. To begin with it was most probably little more than someone calling together a group of players and helpers to organise some competitive team sport for local cricketers during the winter months."*

Hannan (2010) wrote: [140]

"***The story goes that in 1869*** …"

> **The North Melbourne Football Club, The Shinboners'**
>
> The story goes that in 1869 some of the lads who lived in what is now North Melbourne had been playing cricket during the summer and wanted to keep active during the winter. So, they had a meeting and decided to form the North Melbourne Football Club. The North Melbourne Cricket Club then, which began in the season of 1868-69, predates the Football Club by a season. It seems that both teams played their early games over on Royal Park and that some of them were the same people.

The author's determination is that a far more accurate and trustworthy establishment year be set for the North Melbourne Football Club which is 1858 with the football division then playing in Graham's Paddock, Hotham Hill.[141]

[140] The North Melbourne Football Club, The Shinboners' by Lorna Hannan, the Hotham History Project, March 2010. https://www.hothamhistory.org.au/the-north-melbourne-football-club-the-shinboners/

[141] Clubs like Melbourne, which also emerged in 1858, are acknowledged for their foundational contributions and uncontested existence since that year. The North Melbourne Football Club, active in 1858, is similarly recognised here as part of the club's history that predates November 22, 1855, supported by the discovery of compelling new evidence that provides the football club with an operational year in Graham's Paddock in 1858.

1870

Long time secretary of the VFA, from 1882-1897, T.S. Marshall is found taking to the field for North Melbourne named as the Hotham Football Club on Saturday the 4th June 1870, Marshall lined up against the Albert Park Football Club players.

T.S. Marshall later became the Secretary of the North Melbourne Cricket Club for the 1881/2 season. He left the club in 1882 to take up the prestigious role of secretary of the VFA a role he held with distinction. It was noted that on that day, William Marshall, who was either his brother or first cousin, also played for North alongside T.S. Marshall. William had a longer playing career than T.S. Marshall, likely extending from the late 1850s in Graham's Paddock until shortly after 1870. [142] [143]

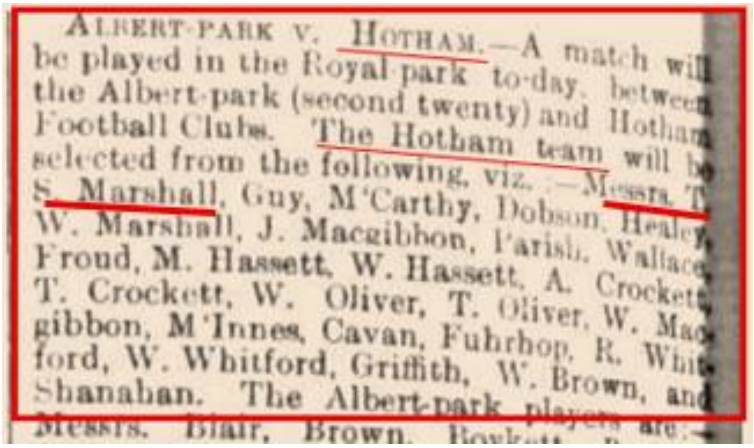
T.S. Marshall is further recognised as the composer of the most complete set of early Australian rules football history from 1856 until 1897. His heritage files folders thought either to never exist or lost were accidently discovered in 1934 found in an old Melbourne hotel undergoing renovation and known to be a place where VFA and pre-VFA club delegated met to discuss how the game could be improved. [144]

The Age's article from May 13, 1933, confirms Mr. T. S. Marshall (1842-1933) [145] served as Secretary of the VFA from 1882 to 1897 after departing from the North Melbourne Cricket Club roles as their secretary in 1881/2 season. The article also features a tribute to T.S. Marshall, showcasing his image in remembrance of his remarkable life, which lasted until he was 91 years old, passing away on January 13, 1933: [146] [147]

The Late Mr. T. S. Marshall, N.M.F.C.

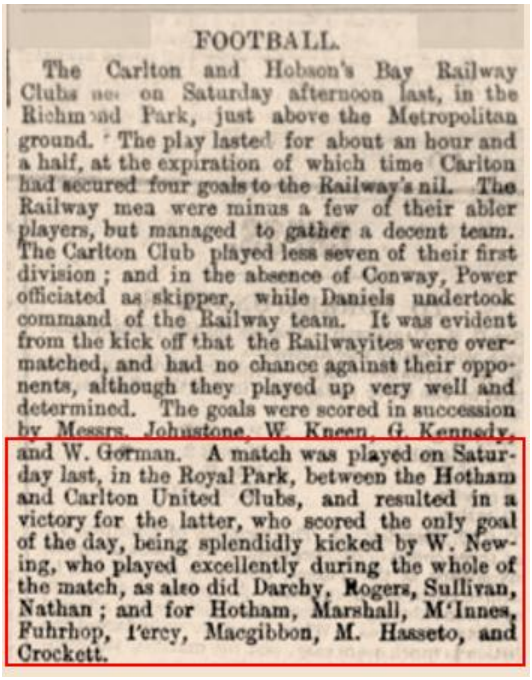
[142] The Guest, White and Bracken recollection make certain Marshall played in Graham's Paddock but lack definition of whether both players surnamed Marshall played in Graham's Paddock from the winter of 1856 or how long they remained at the club.
[143] Football – As She Was Played! By R.H. Beckett, The Herald, Melbourne, Victorian Saturday 14th April 1934, Page 30.
[144] Ibid, Melbourne's Chief Playgrounds, No. 2., 13th May 1933, Page 18.
[145] Born Theophilis Smith Marshall 1842-1933 buried Melbourne General Cemetery (MGC) in an unmarked grave. MGC Parkville, City of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, Plat: MGC-PRE-Comp-N-No-513.
[146] Ibid, Melbourne's Chief Playgrounds, No. 2., 13th May 1933, Page 18.
[147] Ibid, Melbourne's Chief Playgrounds, No. 2., 13th May 1933, Page 18.

The following North Melbourne (Hotham) players joined the Marshalls on the field:[148] **Messrs T.S. Marshall,** Guy, McCarthy, Dobson, Healey, **W. Marshall**, J. Macribbon, Parish, Wallace, Froud, M. Hasset, A. Crockett, T. Crockett, W. Oliver, T. Oliver, W. Macgibbon, McInnes, Cavan, Fuhrhop, Whitford. W. Whitford, Griffith, W. Brown, Shanahan and R. White. Player R. White is taken to be the older brother of J.W. White, St Mary's Church of England, Football Club's under 10 players, in 1870, son of James White the younger and grandson of James White senior.:[149]



ALBERT-PARK V. HOTHAM.—A match will be played in the Royal-park to-day, between the Albert-park (second twenty) and Hotham Football Clubs. The Hotham team will be selected from the following, viz.:—Messrs. T. S. Marshall, Guy, M'Carthy, Dobson, Healey, W. Marshall, J. Macgibbon, Parish, Wallace, Froud, M. Hassett, W. Hassett, A. Crockett, T. Crockett, W. Oliver, T. Oliver, W. Macgibbon, M'Innes, Cavan, Fuhrhop, R. White, Whitford, W. Whitford, Griffith, W. Brown, and Shanahan. The Albert-park players are:—Messrs. Blair, Brown, Bowkett

On Saturday, June 25, 1870, at Royal Park, "Marshall" is again listed as a player for the Hotham Football Club. He was chosen to compete against the Carlton Club that day, but it remains unclear which brother was selected. Additionally, another prominent player mentioned for the North Melbourne Football Club is long-time captain Henry Fuhrhop: [150] [151]



FOOTBALL.

The Carlton and Hobson's Bay Railway Clubs met on Saturday afternoon last, in the Richmond Park, just above the Metropolitan ground. The play lasted for about an hour and a half, at the expiration of which time Carlton had secured four goals to the Railway's nil. The Railway men were minus a few of their ablest players, but managed to gather a decent team. The Carlton Club played less seven of their first division; and in the absence of Conway, Power officiated as skipper, while Daniels undertook command of the Railway team. It was evident from the kick off that the Railwayites were overmatched, and had no chance against their opponents, although they played up very well and determined. The goals were scored in succession by Messrs. Johnstone, W. Kneen, G. Kennedy, and W. Gorman. A match was played on Saturday last, in the Royal Park, between the Hotham and Carlton United Clubs, and resulted in a victory for the latter, who scored the only goal of the day, being splendidly kicked by W. Newing, who played excellently during the whole of the match, as also did Darchy, Rogers, Sullivan, Nathan; and for Hotham, Marshall, M'Innes, Fuhrhop, Percy, Macgibbon, M. Hasseto, and Crockett.

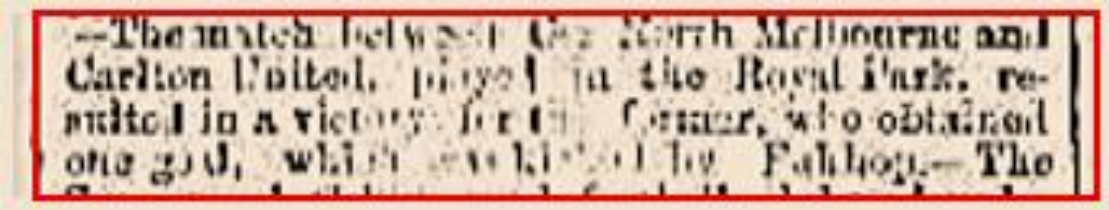
[148] T.S. Marshall and his brother William Marshall are clearly made NMFC player on the 4th June 1870. Carlton FC makes the same T.S. Marshall a Carlton Football Club player 1866-1879 playing his final game for Carlton in July 1870, but no confirmation evidence is offered.

[149] The Australasian, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 4th June 1870, Page 12,
THE MELBOURNE CLUB v. THE 18TH ROYAL IRISH REGIMENT.

[150] FOOTBALL, Hotham v Carlton United, Leader Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 2nd July 1870, Page 9.

[151] Sometimes given the first name "Harry" in error – refer Blueseum.

Listed also are Hotham/North Melbourne's players, Macgibbon, McInnes, [H.] Fuhrhop, M. Hasseto and [T.] Crocket who all played a fine game [mine]. This article has withstood the test of time, and we can still make out the name Henry Fuhrhop. He was listed as a player for North in the match against Carlton United, which took place on Saturday, July 16, 1870: [152]



At the end of aforementioned article, there is a connection between St. Mary's Church of England School Football Club and the nearby Parkside School Football Club. The emphasizes several young players from the school who later advanced to play for the North Melbourne Football Club as adults, including goal scorer J.W. White. He is the grandson of James "Jim" White, who was born in Templemore, Tipperary, Ireland, 1836 and arrived in Melbourne in 1841 at the age of five on the ship Glenwilly. [153]

Known as Jim White the elder from Templemore, he welcomed John Kidd Guest to Melbourne in 1857, along his father also named Jim White, born 1816, a friend of John Kidd Guest's father.

All three sons of John Kidd Guest went on to play for St. Mary's and built careers with the North Melbourne Football Club. Jim White the elder was a dedicated supporter of North Melbourne and introduced John to the club by 1858. It is Jim's son and grandsons who are the Whites playing for North and overlapping their games with the three Guest brothers.

Additionally, Jim White and John Kidd Guest (1831-1871) were friends with Joseph Bracken (1831-1887),[154]the father Lochie and Billy Bracken, both of whom were notable players for North. James White, who shares the same as his father, along with his two grandsons, also played for North.

Several other underage footballers from St Mary Church of England School Football Club went on to play for the North Melbourne Football Club. Notable examples include A. E. Buncle the son of John Buncle, and R.W Sutcliffe, who was the younger son of future club President R [Richard] Sutcliffe.[155]

Another son of President Richard Sutcliffe, A. Sutcliffe, who also attended St Mary's School of England, Corner of Queensberry and Howard Street North Melbourne, later played for North but was not old enough join the school club in 1870.

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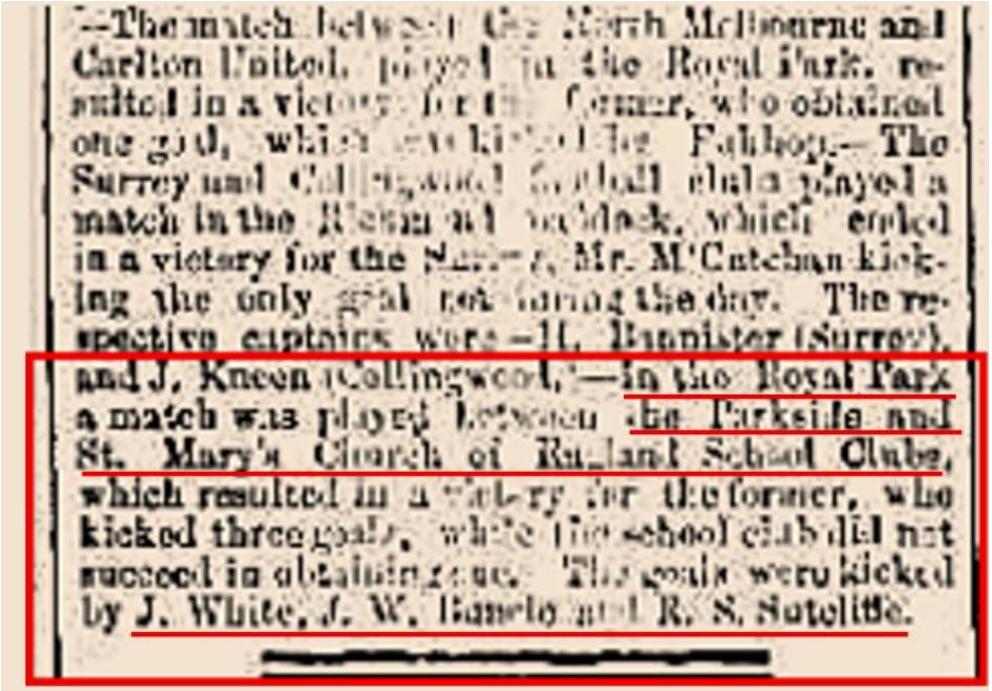
[152] FOOTBALL, North Melbourne v Carlton United in Royal Park, The Herald, Melbourne, Victoria, Monday 18th July 1870, Page 3.

[153] New South Wales, Australia, Assisted Immigrant Passenger Lists, 1828-1896, Name: James White (Father); son James White (son aged 5 years); Gender: Male; Arrival Age: 25; Birth Date: 1816; Arrival Date: 11 March 1841; Arrival Place: New South Wales, Australia; Origin Location: Cahir Tipperary; Alternate Origin Location: Templemore Tipperary; Vessel: Glenswilly; Can Read and Write; Religion: Roman Catholic; Father: John White; Mother: Johanna; Child: James; Author: New South Wales Government (Port Phillip District).

[154] James Bracken is the uncle of Jospeh Kevin Brackn 1852-1904 a co-founder of the GAA Gaelic Football rules and father of controversial Brendan Bracken 1901-1958, Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill's right hand man during WW2.

[155] R. Sutcliffe was a prominent figure in the North Melbourne Football Club, serving as its president during the late 1870s and early 1880s. Specifically, he held the position in 1875, and again from 1877 to 1881.

The author believes that, based on the birth years and status of the players mentioned below, St Mary's students White, Buncle,[156] and Sutcliffe all participated in a match comparable to an under-10 or under-11 game:



—The match between the North Melbourne and Carlton United, played in the Royal Park, resulted in a victory for the former, who obtained one goal, which was kicked by Fahlop.—The Surrey and Collingwood football clubs played a match in the Richmond paddock, which ended in a victory for the Surreys, Mr. M'Catchan kicking the only goal for the day. The respective captains were—H. Bannister (Surrey), and J. Kneen (Collingwood).—In the Royal Park a match was played between the Parkside and St. Mary's Church of England School Clubs, which resulted in a victory for the former, who kicked three goals, while the school club did not succeed in obtaining a goal. The goals were kicked by J. White, J. W. Bancle and R. S. Sutcliffe.

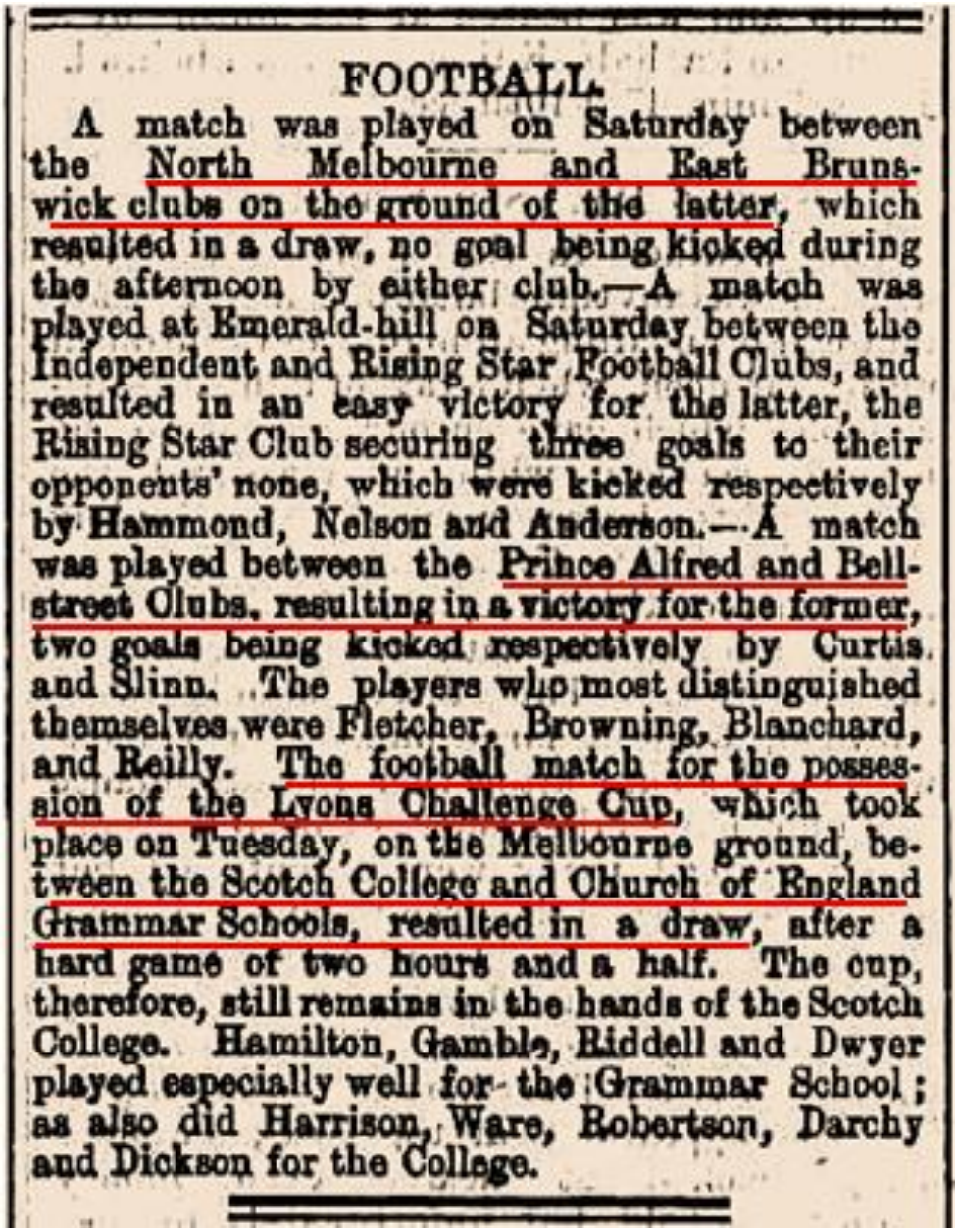
Players not mentioned in the previous article who likely participated that day for St Mary's against Parkside school club [157] include Sam Butt, Frank Lording, and Will Guest. They were contemporaries and later enjoyed successful careers with the North Melbourne Football Club.

The article overleaf reveals that football writers frequently used both original and adopted club names interchangeably in their articles, showing little regard for the official name of a club during any given season or specific games. Additionally, the Leader newspaper article from September 17 1870, [158]confirms that "North Melbourne" faced East Brunswick despite earlier reports that season referring to North by its "Hotham" come Hotham United name.

The narrative highlights a match between the Bell Street Football Club and Prince Alfred. It is supposed that the Bell Street Football Club may have evolved into the Pentridge Football Club, with an unclear connection to the Coburg Football Club, which was in 1891 and is still active in the VFL competition.

[156] Written in error with the spelling "J.W. Bancle": corrected to be certain "J.W. Buncle."
[157] Ibid, Associated Public Schools of Victoria Celebrating 100 Years 1908-2008, p14, 2008.
[158] FOOTBALL, NORTH MELBOURNE AND EAST BRUNSWICK, Leader, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 17 September 1870, Page 9.

Additionally, the article below mentions that Scotch College and Church of Grammar Schools competed for the "Lyon Cup" at the Melbourne Ground in 1870. This prestigious trophy was likely contested by schools from the 1850s to the 1870, including smaller churches like St. Mary's Church of England School Football Club the North Melbourne school Parkside: [159]



FOOTBALL.

A match was played on Saturday between the North Melbourne and East Brunswick clubs on the ground of the latter, which resulted in a draw, no goal being kicked during the afternoon by either club.—A match was played at Emerald-hill on Saturday between the Independent and Rising Star Football Clubs, and resulted in an easy victory for the latter, the Rising Star Club securing three goals to their opponents' none, which were kicked respectively by Hammond, Nelson and Anderson.—A match was played between the Prince Alfred and Bell-street Clubs, resulting in a victory for the former, two goals being kicked respectively by Curtis and Slinn. The players who most distinguished themselves were Fletcher, Browning, Blanchard, and Reilly. The football match for the possession of the Lyons Challenge Cup, which took place on Tuesday, on the Melbourne ground, between the Scotch College and Church of England Grammar Schools, resulted in a draw, after a hard game of two hours and a half. The cup, therefore, still remains in the hands of the Scotch College. Hamilton, Gamble, Riddell and Dwyer played especially well for the Grammar School; as also did Harrison, Ware, Robertson, Darchy and Dickson for the College.

[159] Ibid, Associated Public Schools of Victoria Celebrating 100 Years 1908-2008, p14, 2008.

1871

Clearly in the year 1871, the club preferred to remain with its original name, the North Melbourne Football Club, a name it returned to in 1888.[160] Despite this some sports journalists of the time were prone to call North Melbourne, [161] Hotham. The players representing North on Saturday, August 26, 1871, included: [R.J.] Alcock, Armstrong, Dobson, Dillon, Fuhrhop, Gordon, Hassett, Knowles, McIndoe, McGibbon, McGibbon, Paterson, Pullen, Robertson, Robertson, Scatter, Simpson, Sullivan, Walker, Walker, Wheeler, and Wood [162] [163]

FOOTBALL.

The metropolitan football ground this afternoon will be the scene of a contest between two teams representing the Banks and the Civil Service. The players for the former will consist of Messrs. Ainslie, Barfoot, Birkmyre, W. Campbell, Carr, B. B. Cooper, Darke, Ford, Fulford, Huie, Learmonth, Loughnan, O'Shannassey, Ryan, Roycroft, Shiels, Towle, Skene, Waugh, and W. Williams. The following is the Civil Service team:—Jas. Byrne, Bruford, Colville, Chessell, T. Gorman, W. Freeman, S. Wilson, M'Gibbon, Foot, O'Brien, P. Hodgkinson, Gaggin, Forbes, Wheatley, Cook, Bagge, Marsden, Browning; emergency—Goldsmith, Henderson, and T. Byrne; umpire, Mr. C. Forrester. The match will commence at half-past 2 p.m., and both sides are requested to be punctual. The Albert-Park and South Yarra clubs meet for the last time this season this afternoon, on the South Yarra ground, play to commence at half-past 2 o'clock. The following will represent Albert-park, viz.:—Messrs. Atkinson, Baker, Barfoot, Blair, C. Bruford, C. Chessell, A. Crooke, G. Crooke, J. Cox, Cleverdon, Doran, English, Gray, Gourlay, Hall, Hughes, Matthews, Miller, M'Arthur, M'Donald, Seaward, Taylor, Upton, and Wright. The South Yarra team is composed as follows:—Bancroft, Bromby, Burton, Crawford, Dwyer, Fry, Gouly, Hamilton, Jennings, King, M'Kellar, Morell, Riddell, Sandilands, George Skinner, Waltham, J. Watson, G. Watson, Watt, Williams. In the University Paddock a match will be played between the High School and the Albion Football Club, Carlton. The following will represent the High School, viz.:—J. Birtwistle, J. Boadle, H. Boadle, H. Coutie, J. Cameron, D. Franklin, D. Ferguson, C. O'Grady, T. O'Grady, J. Glencross, W. Gordon, W. Harding, J. Martin, J. Mair, C. Porter, T. Pigdon, H. Sinclair, R. Talbot, J. Mackay, W. Nolan; emergencies—J. Saqui, R. Ferguson, W. Crellin. The Wesley College and Williamstown clubs meet in Fawkner-park. The following are the names of the Williamstown team, who are requested to be at the Fish Market, at 2 o'clock:—Messrs. S. Amear, H. Browne, Thos. Brown, J. Buchanan, A. Curwen, D. Elder, J. Kilgour, J. Legg, Jas. Moor, H. Norman, C. Norman, C. Piper, G. Robinson, J. A. Springhall, H. P. Sutton, J. Taylor, W. Tickell, Jas. Thompson, C. Warlow, A. Wetherall; emergency—D. M'Callum, H. Piper, W. Singleton, F. Tickell. A match between the Carlton and Carlton United clubs takes place in the Royal-park, when the junior club play 20 to 15. Their team will be selected from Messrs. Blackmore, Bennett, Cadden, Casement, D'Arcy, Ellis, Fuhrhop, Franklin, Green, Hayman, Iddles, Kemp, Lupton, Miller, Murphy, Nathan (2), Newing (2), Oswald, Page, Sullivan, Taylor, Templeton, Usher, Wolfe, and Wilson. The following play for Carlton, viz.:—Messrs. H. Bannister, J. Donovan, Captain Disher, Dimorr, Dedman, Goodall, Guy, Johnson, Kennedy, Macgibbon, O'Brien, Robinson, Shaw, Todd, Williams, Williams, Wallace.

A match has been arranged to be played in the Richmond-paddock between the North Melbourne and East Melbourne Football Clubs, game to commence at 3 p.m. sharp. The North Melbourne team will be selected from the following:—Messrs. Alcock, Armstrong, Dobson, Dillon, Fuhrhop, Gordon, Hassett, Knowles, M'Indoe, M'Gibbon (2), Paterson, Pullen, Robertson (3), Scatter, Simpson, Sullivan, Walker (2), Wheeler, and Wood, who are requested to meet at the Post-office at half-past 2 p.m. sharp.

The Defiance and Prince Alfred clubs meet in Royal park, play to begin at 3 sharp. The Defiance team will be chosen from the following:—Collard (3), Gourlay (3), Allan (2), Crowle, Cleverdon, Cook, Hall, Hopkinson, Kearney, M'Caul (captain), M'Innes, Minchin, Mathews, Pow, Reid, Sandilands, Callaghan, M'Guire, Whitehorn, Swift, C. Thomas, and Taylor. The Prince Alfred team will be picked from Adamson, Browning (2), Broatch, Clowes (2), Curtis, Coffey, Ford, Frencham, Fletcher, Gorre, Kennedy, Lewis, Pattison (2), Slimie, Shannon, Turnbull, Todd, Usher (2), Wall. The Brunswick-street reserve will be occupied by a match between the Meteor and the Victory Clubs. Kick-off at half-past 2 sharp.

[160] NORTH MELBOURNE FOOTBALL CLUB, North Melbourne Advertiser, Saturday 31 March 1888, Page 3.

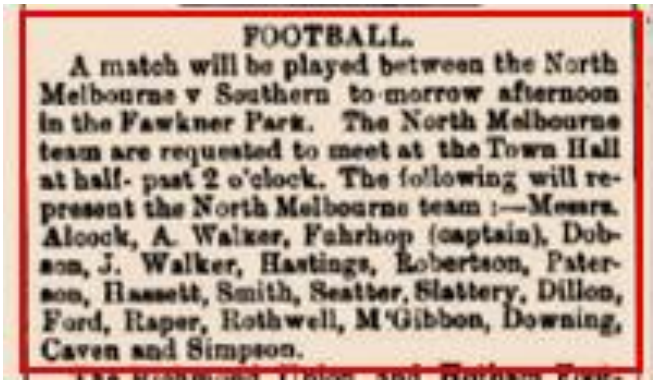
[161] The origin of North Melbourne as a distinct place is contained in the Argus of 8th July, 1852. Proclaimed on 30 September 1859 North Melbourne became the Municipality of Hotham, On November 1, 1886, the Borough Council of Brunswick applied to be called North Melbourne and an uproar by Hotham residents saw them win a hard-fought battle to revert back to the name North Melbourne in 1887. The football club followed suit in 1888. The change of name from Hotham to North Melbourne was declared in the Government Gazette on August 26, 1887. Source: Dr. R. Blanchard, Northern Advertiser, 29th March 1973.

[162] The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 26th August 1871, Page 7, FOOTBALL.

[163] We know they are the same sides because Henry Fuhrhop is again named.

1872

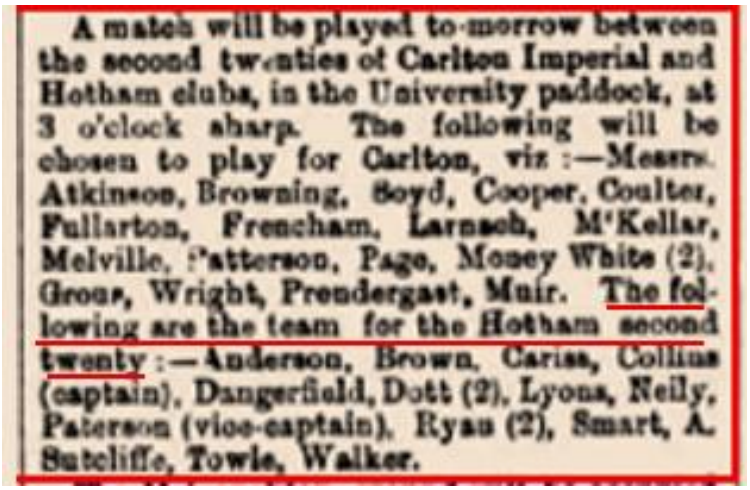
The North Melbourne Football Club's First-20 took to the field on Friday, August 16, 1872, against the Southern Stars Football Club at Fawkner Park. That day, North were led by Captain Harry Fuhrhop who is listed below along with his team mates: R.J. Alcock, A. Walker, Fuhrhop (Captain), Dob, J. Walker, Hastings, Robertson, Paterson, Hassett, Smith, Scatter, Slattery, Dillion, Ford, Raper, Rothwell, McGibbon, Downing, Caven, and Simpson:



FOOTBALL.

A match will be played between the North Melbourne v Southern to-morrow afternoon in the Fawkner Park. The North Melbourne team are requested to meet at the Town Hall at half- past 2 o'clock. The following will represent the North Melbourne team :—Messrs. Alcock, A. Walker, Fuhrhop (captain), Dobson, J. Walker, Hastings, Robertson, Paterson, Hassett, Smith, Scatter, Slattery, Dillon, Ford, Raper, Rothwell, M'Gibbon, Downing, Caven and Simpson.

North's second-20 Hotham team faced Carlton Imperial in the University Paddock. [164] This game filled the 3pm time slot [165] originally designated for the cancelled match between Richmond Union and Hotham. On that day, North's second-20 players included: Anderson, Brown, Cariss, Collins (Captain), Dangerfield Dott, Lyons, Neely, Patterson (Vice Captain), Smart, A. Sutcliffe, Towle, and Walker. A. Sutcliffe is believed to be the older brother of R.W. Sutcliffe, an Under 10s player for St Mary's Church of England Football Club and the sons of North Melbourne club stalwart and hotelier, Mr. R. Sutcliffe:



A match will be played to-morrow between the second twenties of Carlton Imperial and Hotham clubs, in the University paddock, at 3 o'clock sharp. The following will be chosen to play for Carlton, viz :—Messrs. Atkinson, Browning, Boyd, Cooper, Coulter, Fullarton, Frencham, Larnach, M'Kellar, Melville, Patterson, Page, Money White (2), Gross, Wright, Prendergast, Muir. The following are the team for the Hotham second twenty :—Anderson, Brown, Cariss, Collins (captain), Dangerfield, Dott (2), Lyons, Neily, Paterson (vice-captain), Ryan (2), Smart, A. Sutcliffe, Towle, Walker.

The Collingwood Football Club, established in 1887, took to the field on May 4th, 1872, participating in an intra-club scratch match at their shared home ground with the Fitzroy Football Club, located on Brunswick Street in North Fitzroy.[166] [167]

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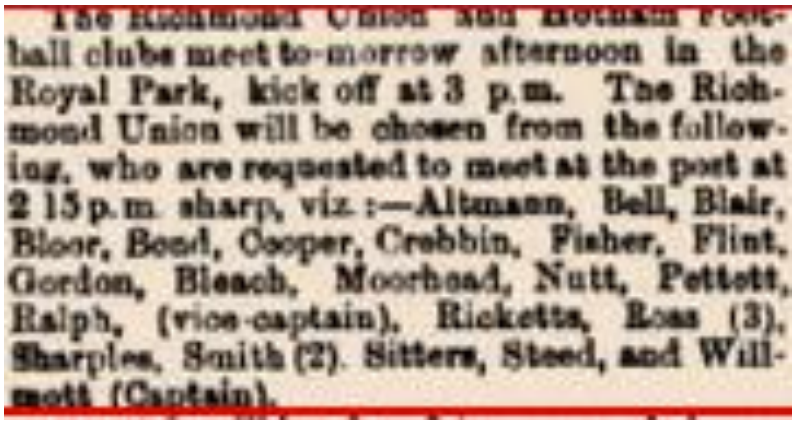
[164] University Paddock is taken to be the Madeline Street paddock later becoming Carlton Football Club's ground. Madeline Street Carlton is now Swanston Street North and the football ground is occupied by Melbourne University buildings.

[165] FOOTBALL, The Herald, Melbourne, Victoria, Friday 16th August 1872, Page 3.

[166] North Fitzroy ground is certain to be Brunswick Street Oval, North Fitzroy, typical associated with the symbolic Melbourne home of the Fitzroy Football Club come Brisbane Lions Football Club extant in the AFL.

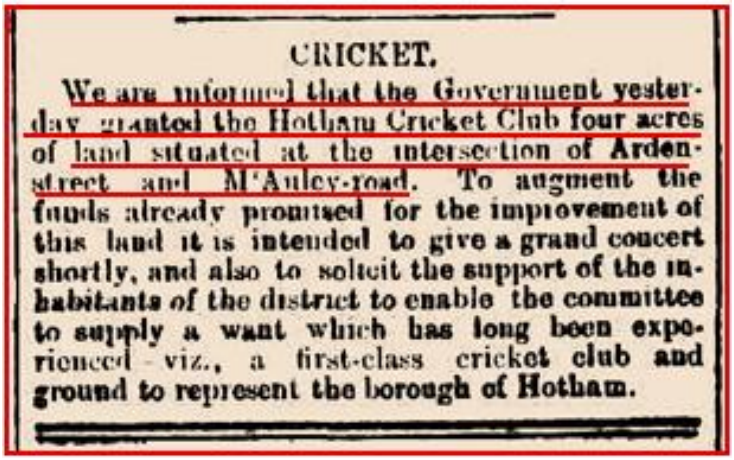
[167] FOOTBALL, COLLINGWOOD, Leader, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 4th May 1872, Page 19.

The second-20 match, held on Saturday, June, 1872, at Royal Park, featured Richmond Union against Hotham Football Club, which later reverted back to its original North Melbourne Football Club name: [168]


ball clubs meet to-morrow afternoon in the Royal Park, kick off at 3 p.m. The Richmond Union will be chosen from the following, who are requested to meet at the post at 2 15 p.m. sharp, viz :—Altmann, Bell, Blair, Bloor, Bond, Cooper, Crabbin, Fisher, Flint, Gordon, Bleach, Moorhead, Nutt, Pettett, Ralph, (vice-captain), Ricketts, Ross (3), Sharples, Smith (2). Sitters, Steed, and Willmott (Captain).

1873

The North Melbourne Cricket Club, has been playing at Arden Street since the beginning of the 1867/68 cricket, was officially recognised as leaseholder for the oval by the Melbourne City Council 1873. [169] [170]


CRICKET.

We are informed that the Government yesterday granted the Hotham Cricket Club four acres of land situated at the intersection of Arden-street and M'Auley-road. To augment the funds already promised for the improvement of this land it is intended to give a grand concert shortly, and also to solicit the support of the inhabitants of the district to enable the committee to supply a want which has long been experienced - viz., a first-class cricket club and ground to represent the borough of Hotham.

In 1873, it seems that North Melbourne and Carlton Football Clubs were on the path to a friendly merger or at the very least, enjoyed a strong relationship at Royal Park. is evidenced by their unusual practice of mixing players to create combined scratch match teams. [171]

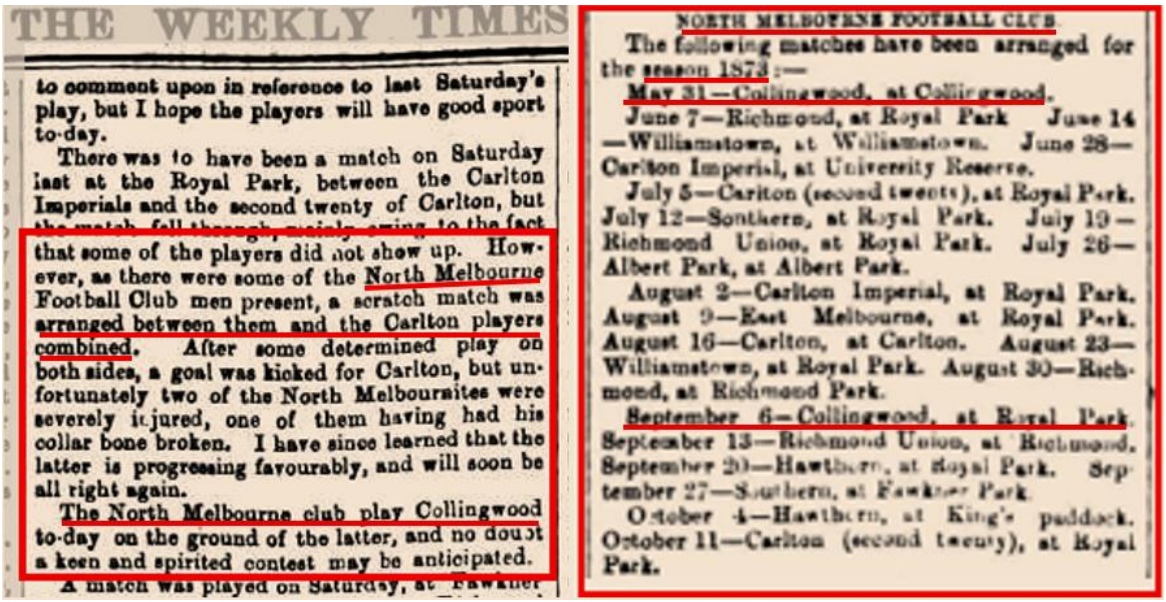
[168] The author speculates that the game intended for the following day was a rescheduled one that Richmond Union Club had failed to notify the newspaper about regarding its cancellation.

[169] CRICKET, GOVERNMENT GRANTS THE HOTHAM CRICKET CEY ROAD LUB FOUR ARCES OF LAND SITUATED ON THE CORNER OF ARDEN STREET & MCAULEY ROAD HOTHAM, The Age, Melbourne, Victoria, Wednesday 30th July 1873, Page 4.

[170] Ibid Melbourne's Chief Playgrounds, No. 2., "North Melbourne" by F.M., The Age, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 13th May 1933, Page 18.

[171] Former Carlton president John Elliott own words, he confirmed stories the Blues almost merged with St Kilda during the mid-1990s, while also saying a merger with North Melbourne in 1999 was only scuppered when the two sides played in the grand final that year. The present author believes Frost book published in 1998 rekindled a revenge by the Carlton Football Club's late President John Elliott in 1998/9 to absorb North after North swallowed up Carlton Imperials Football Club leaving Carlton shocked and without a catchment for future players (Source: Sporting News, May 2nd 2013, Elliott: Carlton, St Kilda almost merged.

The article below recognises North Melbourne played the Collingwood Football Club. This served as a valuable link to the Collingwood club's history just before it was rebranded Brittania Junior Football Club: [172]



THE WEEKLY TIMES

to comment upon in reference to last Saturday's play, but I hope the players will have good sport to-day.

There was to have been a match on Saturday last at the Royal Park, between the Carlton Imperials and the second twenty of Carlton, but the match fell through, mainly owing to the fact that some of the players did not show up. However, as there were some of the North Melbourne Football Club men present, a scratch match was arranged between them and the Carlton players combined. After some determined play on both sides, a goal was kicked for Carlton, but unfortunately two of the North Melbournites were severely injured, one of them having had his collar bone broken. I have since learned that the latter is progressing favourably, and will soon be all right again.

The North Melbourne club play Collingwood to-day on the ground of the latter, and no doubt a keen and spirited contest may be anticipated.

A match was played on Saturday, at Fawkner

NORTH MELBOURNE FOOTBALL CLUB.

The following matches have been arranged for the season 1873:—

May 31—Collingwood, at Collingwood.

June 7—Richmond, at Royal Park June 14—Williamstown, at Williamstown. June 28—Carlton Imperial, at University Reserve.

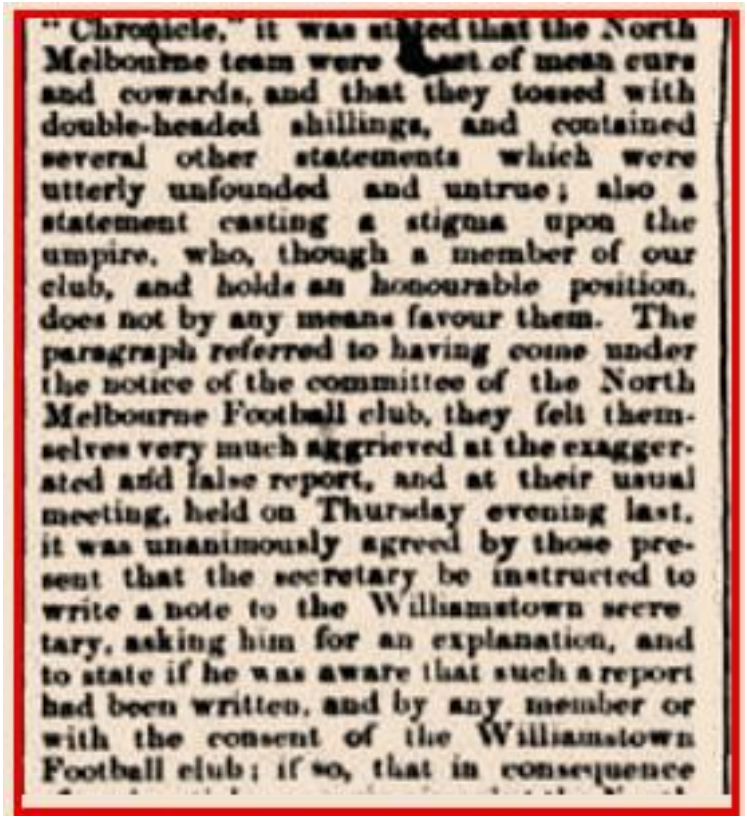
July 5—Carlton (second twents), at Royal Park. July 12—Southern, at Royal Park. July 19—Richmond Union, at Royal Park. July 26—Albert Park, at Albert Park.

August 2—Carlton Imperial, at Royal Park. August 9—East Melbourne, at Royal Park. August 16—Carlton, at Carlton. August 23—Williamstown, at Royal Park. August 30—Richmond, at Richmond Park.

September 6—Collingwood, at Royal Park. September 13—Richmond Union, at Richmond. September 20—Hawthorn, at Royal Park. September 27—Southern, at Fawkner Park.

October 4—Hawthorn, at King's paddock. October 11—Carlton (second twenty), at Royal Park.

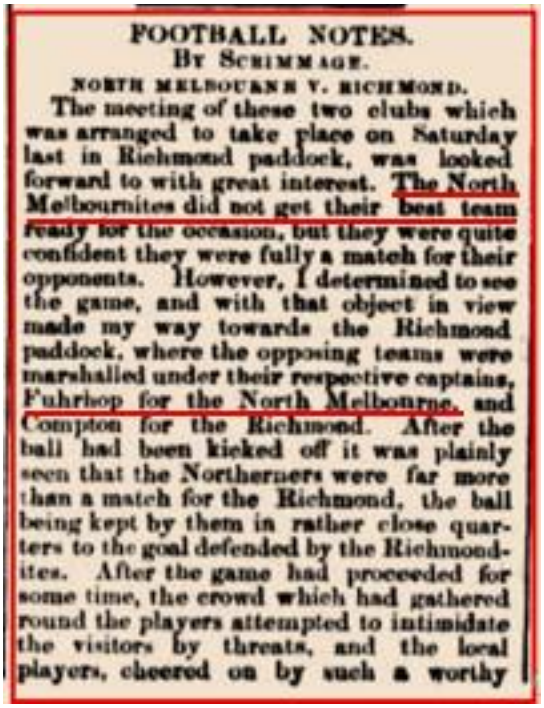
On July 9th 1873, a war of words broke out among the usually friendly two clubs North Melbourne and Williamstown Football Clubs, as reported in the newspaper. Williamstown portrayed North Melbourne's behaviour in a negative light, prompting North Melbourne to refute these as either false or exaggerated: [173]



"Chronicle," it was stated that the North Melbourne team were [illegible]est of mean curs and cowards, and that they tossed with double-headed shillings, and contained several other statements which were utterly unfounded and untrue; also a statement casting a stigma upon the umpire, who, though a member of our club, and holds an honourable position, does not by any means favour them. The paragraph referred to having come under the notice of the committee of the North Melbourne Football club, they felt themselves very much aggrieved at the exaggerated and false report, and at their usual meeting, held on Thursday evening last, it was unanimously agreed by those present that the secretary be instructed to write a note to the Williamstown secretary, asking him for an explanation, and to state if he was aware that such a report had been written, and by any member or with the consent of the Williamstown Football club; if so, that in consequence

[172] FOOTBALL, Weekly Times, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 31st May 1873, Page 12.
[173] FOOTBALL NOTES, North Melbourne Advertiser, Victoria, Wednesday 9th July 1873, Page 2.

Long-time club captain of North, Henry Fuhrhop, a celebrated figure among the few recognised in the North Melbourne Football Club's archives as pre-VFA club members/players, is listed below. The club is referred to both the "Northerners" and the "North Melbournites" for readers:[174]

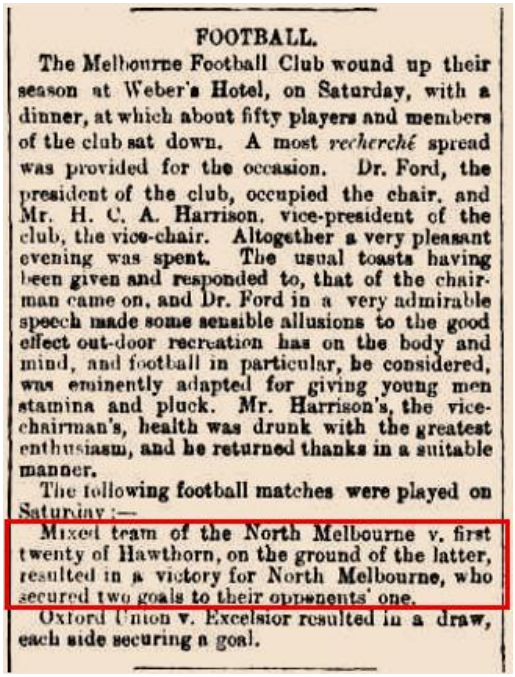


FOOTBALL NOTES.
By Scrimmage.

NORTH MELBOURNE V. RICHMOND.

The meeting of these two clubs which was arranged to take place on Saturday last in Richmond paddock, was looked forward to with great interest. The North Melbournites did not get their best team ready for the occasion, but they were quite confident they were fully a match for their opponents. However, I determined to see the game, and with that object in view made my way towards the Richmond paddock, where the opposing teams were marshalled under their respective captains, Fuhrhop for the North Melbourne, and Compton for the Richmond. After the ball had been kicked off it was plainly seen that the Northerners were far more than a match for the Richmond, the ball being kept by them in rather close quarters to the goal defended by the Richmondites. After the game had proceeded for some time, the crowd which had gathered round the players attempted to intimidate the visitors by threats, and the local players, cheered on by such a worthy

On Saturday, October 4th 1873, a combined team of North Melbourne's first and second 20 players faced off against the Hawthorn Football Club at Hawthorn, with North emerging victorious:[175]



FOOTBALL.

The Melbourne Football Club wound up their season at Weber's Hotel, on Saturday, with a dinner, at which about fifty players and members of the club sat down. A most *recherché* spread was provided for the occasion. Dr. Ford, the president of the club, occupied the chair, and Mr. H. C. A. Harrison, vice-president of the club, the vice-chair. Altogether a very pleasant evening was spent. The usual toasts having been given and responded to, that of the chairman came on, and Dr. Ford in a very admirable speech made some sensible allusions to the good effect out-door recreation has on the body and mind, and football in particular, he considered, was eminently adapted for giving young men stamina and pluck. Mr. Harrison's, the vice-chairman's, health was drunk with the greatest enthusiasm, and he returned thanks in a suitable manner.

The following football matches were played on Saturday:—

Mixed team of the North Melbourne v. first twenty of Hawthorn, on the ground of the latter, resulted in a victory for North Melbourne, who secured two goals to their opponents' one.

Oxford Union v. Excelsior resulted in a draw, each side securing a goal.

[174] FOOTBALL NOTED BY SCRIMMAGE, North Melbourne Advertiser, Wednesday 3rd September 1873, Page 2.
[175] FOOTBALL. The Age, Melbourne, Victoria, Monday 6th October 1873, Page 3.

1874

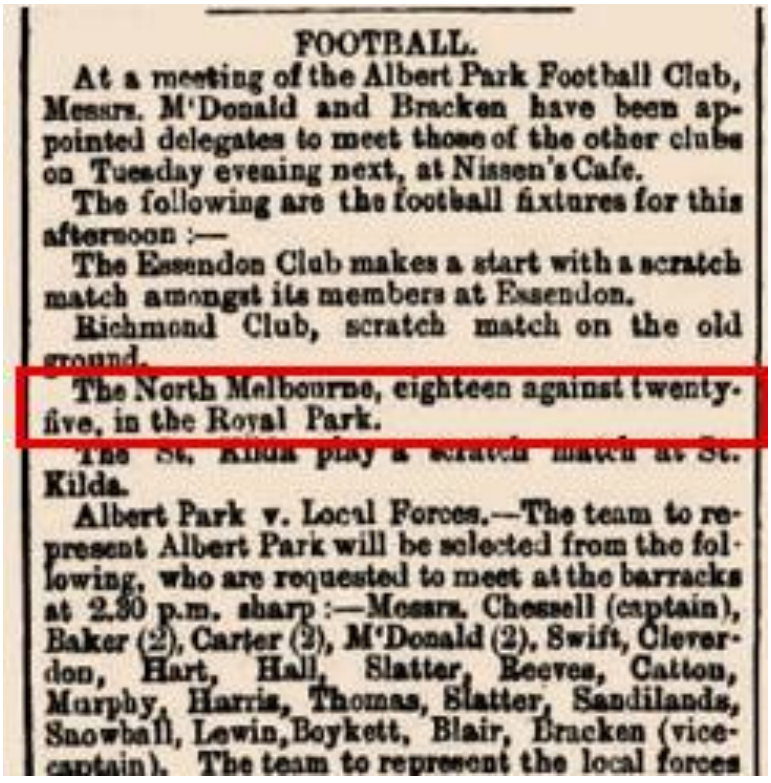
In the 1866 season section above, it noted that in 1874, Mr. J. McIndoe, of the North Melbourne Club, collaborated with Mr. J. Bracken, Secretary of the Albert Park Football Club, to help revise the Victorian Rules of the game established in 6.

Both men had connections to James White senior and his friend, John Kidd Guest, who had been part of the North Melbourne Club as members since 1858, along with Bracken's father, lifelong friend of White and Guest, who settled in Melbourne as part of a small community from Templemore, Tipperary, Ireland, in the 1850s. McIndoe and Bracken, whose father brought his family, including sons Lochie and Billy, to Melbourne in1862 to join Guest and White, preferred to live in Albert Park.

They worked alongside prominent figures such as Wardill, O'Mullane, Murray, Clarke, James, and Chadwick. Additionally, in 1874, it was confirmed that the North Melbourne Cricket Club, which had effectively occupied the Hotham Recreation Reserve since 1868 as a squatter, held the rights to lease the 4-acre site from 1873.

This lease arrangement continued with the cricket branch until 1879, when control of the club and its assets, including the governance and operations of the division and the lease of "Arden Street," transferred to the branch. [176]

On 2nd May 1874 North Melbourne first team of 18 player took on its send-20 side in an intra-club scratch match in Royal Park: [177]



FOOTBALL.

At a meeting of the Albert Park Football Club, Messrs. M'Donald and Bracken have been appointed delegates to meet those of the other clubs on Tuesday evening next, at Nissen's Cafe.

The following are the football fixtures for this afternoon :—

The Essendon Club makes a start with a scratch match amongst its members at Essendon.

Richmond Club, scratch match on the old ground.

The North Melbourne, eighteen against twenty-five, in the Royal Park.

The St. Kilda play a scratch match at St. Kilda.

Albert Park v. Local Forces.—The team to represent Albert Park will be selected from the following, who are requested to meet at the barracks at 2.30 p.m. sharp :—Messrs. Chessell (captain), Baker (2), Carter (2), M'Donald (2), Swift, Cleverdon, Hart, Hall, Slatter, Reeves, Catton, Murphy, Harris, Thomas, Slatter, Sandilands, Snowball, Lewin, Boykett, Blair, Bracken (vice-captain). The team to represent the local forces

[176] THE HOTHAM CRICKET CLUB, North Melbourne Advertiser, Victoria, Friday 2nd October 1874, Page 2.
[177] FOOTBALL, The Leader, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 2nd May 1874, Page 19.

Below is a sketch of the North Melbourne Football Ground in Royal Park from 1874 occupied continuously by the North Melbourne Club since 1858 with the football branch the sole holder from 1868-1882: [178]

On May 5th and May 12th 1874, reported were several football clubs represented by their delegates at a meeting held at Nissen's Café. Delegates from the Carlton, Melbourne, Albert Park, Geelong, St. Kilda, and North Melbourne clubs gathered to address issues related to rough play in the game. The primary concern was the rough tactics employed by defenders attempting to halt forwards who running with the ball, which led to the elimination of certain loopholes.[179] The productive meeting established the next revision of the code, which was to be finalised before May 16th, 1874.[180]

On Friday, May 15th 1874, The Argus newspaper published the annual schedule of competitive games featuring the prominent Melbourne clubs of that era. [181]

October 8, Kardinia, at Geelong.

NORTH MELBOURNE CLUB.—May 23, St. Kilda, at Royal-park; May 30, Melbourne, at Richmond-paddock. June 13, Brunswick, at Royal-park; June 27, Melbourne, at Richmond-paddock. July 4, St. Kilda, at St. Kilda; July 11, Southern, at Fawkner-park; July 18, Garrison, at St. Kilda-road; July 25, Albert-park, at Royal-park. August 29, St. Kilda, at Royal-park. September 5, Carlton, at Royal-park; September 12, Albert-park, at Albert-park; September 19, Essendon, at Essendon. October 3, Carlton, at Royal-park.

HAWTHORN CLUB.—May 16, East Melbourne, at Hawthorn; May 23, Essendon, at Hawthorn; May 30,

[178] Sketch attributed to Carlton Football Club's Blueseum 1874 Landing Page, featuring also player Guest taking to the field on 27th July 1874 for one game only.

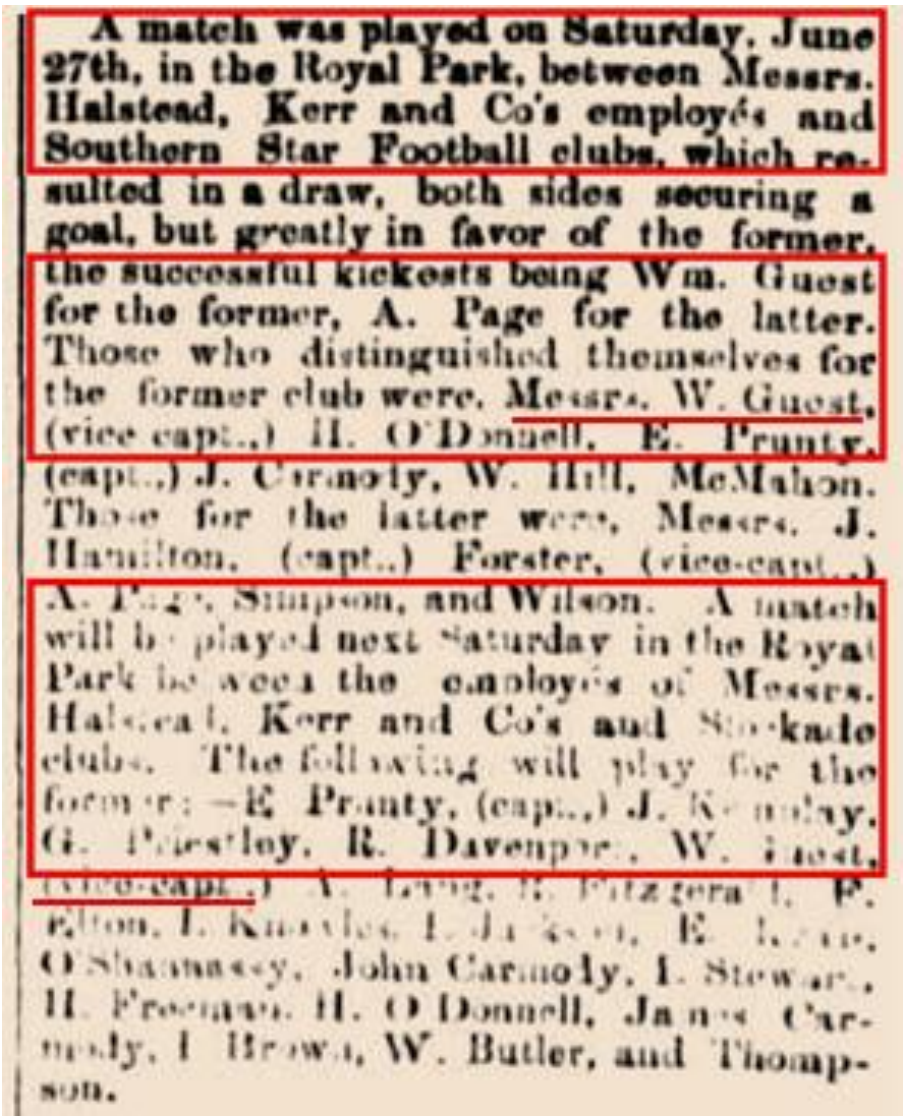
[179] Nissen's Cafe, was located at 103 Bourke Street. It was demolished at the hands of Whelan the wrecker in 1960 and the Mid-City Centre now occupies the space. Prior to 1885 Nissen Café was a popular restaurant at the time, and affluential Melbournians wanted to be seen there.

[180] The Yorker, 2010, p19, Journal of the Melbourne Cricket Club Library Issue 41, Autumn 2010.

[181] FOOTBALL MATCHES, The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria Friday 15th May 1874, Page 6.

On the following day, May 16th 1874, the Australasian newspaper announced the adoption the updated Victorian rules code, highlighting the delegates. These included Mr. Macdonald and **L.J. Bracken** from Albert Park, S. Wallace and T.P. Power from Carlton, G. Down and Reichmann from Geelong B. Goldsmith and L.W. Bell from Melbourne, A. Hastings and **J. McIndoe** from North Melbourne, and G.L. Skinner and H. Jennings from St. Kilda.[182] [183]

Also in the year 1874, the first of three brothers Guest who are the sons of John Kidd Guest (1831-1871), is found in the newspaper making an early mark as a young footballer. He, the eldest of the three William Langford Guest (1862-1922) still in his fourteenth year and newly hired trainee accountant for the firm Halstead, Kerr, and Company, is listed below playing for his employer's team and named as Vice-Captain. [184] Company teams were far from unusual at the time and would compete against more established or more well-known clubs of the era:



A match was played on Saturday, June 27th, in the Royal Park, between Messrs. Halstead, Kerr and Co's employés and Southern Star Football clubs, which resulted in a draw, both sides securing a goal, but greatly in favor of the former, the successful kickests being Wm. Guest for the former, A. Page for the latter. Those who distinguished themselves for the former club were, Messrs. W. Guest, (vice capt.,) H. O'Donnell, E. Prunty, (capt.,) J. Carnoty, W. Hill, McMahon. Those for the latter were, Messrs. J. Hamilton, (capt.,) Forster, (vice-capt.,) A. Page, Simpson, and Wilson. A match will be played next Saturday in the Royal Park between the employés of Messrs. Halstead, Kerr and Co's and Stockade clubs. The following will play for the former:—E Prunty, (capt.,) J. Kearney, G. Priestley, R. Davenport, W. Guest, (vice-capt.,) A. Long, H. Fitzgerald, P. Felton, I. Knowles, J. Jackson, E. Lane, O'Shannessy, John Carnoly, I. Stewart, H. Freeman, H. O'Donnell, James Carnoly, I. Brown, W. Butler, and Thompson.

Will Guest's as he was known, developed his playing skills for St Mary's Church of England School and their School Football Club.

[182] The Australasian, May 16, 1874., "Victorian Rules of Football" in Power, Thomas P. [ed.].
[183] The Footballer: An Annual Record of Football in Victoria and the Australian Colonies, Melbourne, 1876, pp 9-21.
[184] FOOTBALL NOTES, North Melbourne Advertiser on Friday, July 3, 1874, on Page 2.

He was unexpectedly called up at the last minute to join the undermanned Carlton Football Club's first team against his cherished North Melbourne Football Club. It seems Will made a remarkable impact that day Carlton selected him from the curtain raiser player group, and North Melbourne agreed to let Will serve as one of two substitutes needed to the gap left by two absent senior players.

Carlton Football Club's Blueseum acknowledges Will as the 1874 player "Guest," highlighting that although he was incorrectly listed as playing for Carlton's second-20, he actually played for the first-20 team at Royal Park against his beloved North Melbourne Football Club: [185]

HISTORY OF THE BLUESEUM
Carlton Football Club
1864

Guest

Challenge Cup Competition
Career: 1874

1874 June 27
Guest was named in the Carlton Second Twenty squad of 28 to play Carlton Imperials in the University paddock.

Blueseum: Pre VFL Players

Historians at the Carlton Football Club write:

June 27 1874
Carlton played North Melbourne at Royal Park at 2.30pm.
Crowd; 3,000
Unbeknown to the Blues, North were to play Melbourne on the Melbourne ground, but cancelled as they wanted the match played on their (North's) own ground.
If Carlton had known the facts they would not have played North Melbourne, as a senior club it would not sanction a break of football etiquette.
Both Newing and Goer were not available.
The Blues did not play their best team and were three players short*, they expected an easy win.
.*A representative of North Melbourne wrote to the Herald on Tuesday to say that Carlton had played 20 players.
North Melbourne Advertiser (July 03) said of Carlton that, "two of those picked being absent."
Former captain G. Kennedy played.
In the second half Kennedy, Duncan and Gardiner all missed easy shots at goal.
Carlton team; (21 named)
Blanshard, Boyle, Dalton, Dismorr, Dedman, J. Donovan (Capt.), Gardiner, Kendall, A. Kennedy, T. Kennedy, Lacey, Monie, J. Macgibbon (Vice Capt.), McGill, O'Brien, G. Robertson, Rix, Wallace, H. Williams, Amess, Downing.
Umpire; W. 'Bill' Newing
Match drawn; 0-0
Players mentioned; (10) Donovan, Blanshard, Gardiner, G. Kennedy, Duncan, McGill, Lacey, Macgibbon, Adam Kennedy, Duncan.

Carlton Reserves played Carlton Imperial in the University Paddock.
Carlton team; (28 named)
Aram, Amess, Amess, Carr, Cullen, Dismorr, Donning, Duckett, Fletcher, Guest, Hipe, Jones, Jones, Long, Monie, McRae, McClure, McLaurin, Nudd, Muir, J. J. Pashley, Power, Power, Toohey (Capt.), Toohey, Waugh, Williams, Williamson.
No result details.

[185] Ibid, Carlton Football Club's Blueseum 1874 Landing Page, featuring also player Guest taking to the field on 27th June 1874 [one game only for the club].

The artifact below shows a detailed recap of the match North Melbourne and Carlton that day below reveals that North secured a comfortable victory against a weakened Carlton first-team:[186]

Football Notes.

By Scrimmage.

Saturday last was the finest day we have been blessed with for some considerable time, and was just such a day as your true footballer delights in. In our northern district the great attraction was undoubtedly the match between the first twenties of the Carlton and North Melbourne clubs. As the former had beaten every club they had played with during the season, it was confidently expected that Carlton would win with two or three goals to spare. In this belief I concurred, as those who read my notes in the last issue of this paper are aware. Every effort was made to secure the best team available to represent the newly fledged seniors, and a rattling team was selected—on paper. When the day arrived, however, three of those selected, viz.:—Healey, Roper, and Thurgarland, failed to turn up, and emergency men had to be taken on in their stead. The Carlton likewise did not turn out their best team, two of those picked being absent. Shortly after 3 o'clock the ground was cleared, and the teams ready to be placed. The ball was kicked off by Dillon, of the North Melbourne, each player rushing to his place during the operation. The ball was soon returned by the Carlton, and carried down towards the North Melbourne goal, where it hovered for a short time, but was ultimately sent back, chiefly by the exertions of Dellit and Gillman. The play then became very warm about the centre of the ground for a few minutes, during which Robertson, who was playing splendidly, managed effectually to bring the Carlton skipper (Donovan) to grass. Then down went Blanchard, knocking about evidently being in favor of both sides. Robertson and McLean worked with a will, and despite the exertions of the Carltonites they could not help the ball going near their goal on one or two occasions. At it both teams went with a will, the North Melbournites marking splendidly, and showing great improvement in their play, while the Carlton made several fine rushes at their opponent's goal. The latter seemed to have slightly the best of the play for the first hour, and it was thought would even shape better towards the end of the game. Half time arrived, and a short spell was allowed, when players sucked at suspicious colored bottles and evidently refreshed their inner man previous to the final rally. At it both sides went, and to the surprise of every person on the ground, it was seen that the North Melbournites were turning the tables on their opponents. The ball was kept for a considerable time rather near the Carlton goal posts and Sutcliffe had two or three kicks thereat. But no luck was in the way, and a spasmodic rally being made by the Carltonites in a few moments it was rushed up to the other end, where Gardiner, Kennedy and Duncan attempted to kick goals but did not succeed, much to the relief of the North Melbourne. Another rush was made by the latter to the place from whence it came, near the Carlton goal posts, where it was kept very nearly all the afternoon. The play of the North Melbournites was good throughout the day, but I thought that the Carlton men lacked the spirit and dash which usually pervades them. The game was played with the greatest of good feeling on both sides, as ought to be the case in such a match. Those who distinguished themselves for the Carlton where, Blanshard, G. Kennedy, Gardiner and Donovan, and for their opponents I may say that where all played so well it seems invidious to mention names, but I cannot refrain from congratulating Messrs. Robertson, McLean, Fuhrhop, Gillman, Dellit and Sutcliffe. The reappearance of that shining light, of former days, Gillman, was the general topic of conversation, and the manner in which he played, drew forth unqualified praise. It is to be hoped he is going to play right through the season, as the North Melbourne club, now a senior, can hardly spare the services of those who have been mainstays of the club for years past. Robertson has also to be congratulated, as he fairly excelled himself on Saturday, and played with great dash. The match was not doubt a great disappointment, from a Carlton point of view, as they evidently thought they had nothing to do but to come and kick a few goals and win. Next time the very best team that can be mustered will no doubt do battle for them, and the Northerners will have to fight hard to succeed as well as they did on Saturday last.

The North Melbourne 1st twenty play the St. Kilda 1st twenty, on the ground of the latter, next Saturday. The following, who are selected to represent the North Melbourne, are requested to meet at the General Post Office at a quarter past 2 o'clock:—Messrs. Byrne, Dellit, Dobson, Dillon, Fuhrhop, Gardiner, Gillman, Tassett, Hogan, McGibbon, McLean, Pattison, Power, Robertson, Raper, Sutcliffe, Slattery, Smith, Traynor, Thurgarland and Thompson.

The 2nd 20 of the North Melbourne play the 2nd 20 of the Carlton, and the following are selected to represent them:—Messrs. Paterson, (2) Knowles, Fitzgerald, Scown, White, Greenaway, Grieg, Leonard, Murray, Tierney, Deely, Cavan, Dangerfield, Absolum, Bickford, Fahey, Riley, Brown and Pooley. Emergency: Kennedy, Pattison, Jefferson and Barber.

Taken from the football notes above, and listed here are the names of the North Melbourne Football Club's first 20 team listed to play next, the St Kilda Football Club. They are: Byrne,[187] Dellit, Dobson, Dillon, Fuhrhop, Gardiner, Gillman, Hassett, Hogan, McGibbon, McLean, Pattison, Power, Robertson, William Raper,[188] [189] Sutcliffe, Slattery, Smith Traynor, Thurgarland and Thompson.

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[186] FOOTBALL NOTES, North Melbourne Advertiser, Friday, July 3rd 1874, Page 2.

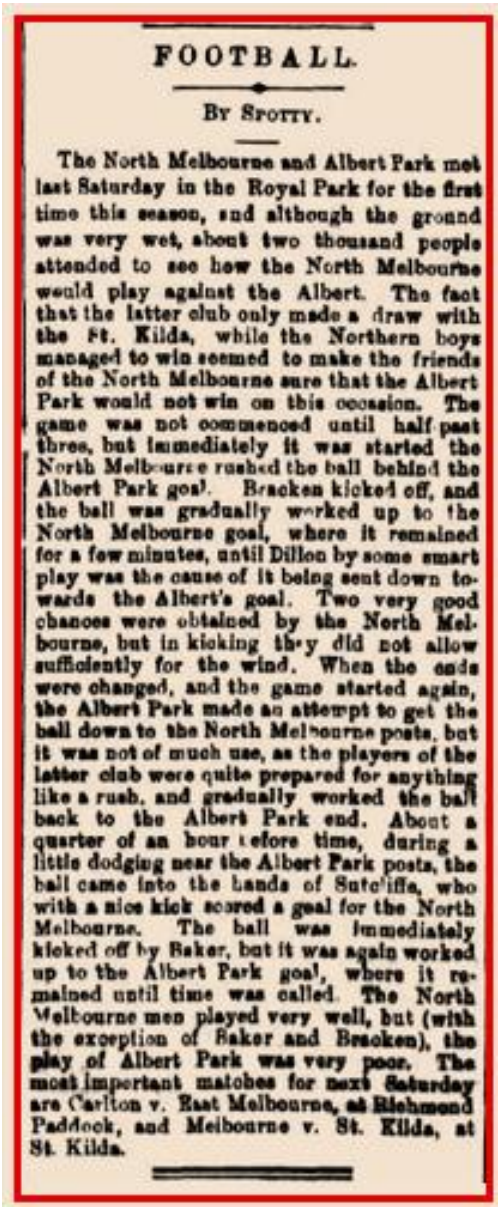
[187] Byrne *maybe* Rev. William Byrne, ex St Mary Church of England, Hotham, or a close blood relative, see "S. MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND, North Melbourne, North Melbourne Courier and West Melbourne Advertiser, Victoria, Friday 5th May 1905, Page 2.

[188] Raper is certain to be William Raper who *maybe* the son or a close blood relative of John Raper to whom the latter, along with other early St Mary Church of England Parishioners, founded St. Mary's daughter church, St George's in Royal Park, along with St. George's Church, Royal Park, formed by three of St Mary's parishioners, viz., Messrs, Albert Mattingley and Joseph Ellis, all names associated with the North Melbourne club, cricket and football respectively 1859, 1860.
see *ibid*, "S. MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND, North Melbourne, North Melbourne Courier and West Melbourne Advertiser, Victoria, Friday 5th May 1905, Page 2.

[189] C.f., William Raper commenced playing with North from 1870, in "WHAT'S IN A NAME," The Argus on Friday, June 16th 1939, Page 18.

Very useful also to this study is the list of North's second-20 squad players set to play Carlton's second-20 team and taken also from the detailed article submitted above. Players named are: Paterson, Patterson, Knowles, Fitzgerald, Scown, White, Greenaway, Greig, Leonard, Murray, Tierney, Deely, C, Dangerfield, Absolum, Bickford, Fahey, Riley, Brown, and Peeley. The emergencies are Hotham, Pattison, Jefferson, and. Harbor. [190] Will Guest continued to play for his employer club, Halstead, Kerr and Company, for the remainder of the year and throughout 1875, before officially transferring to his next club, North Melbourne. He stayed at North Melbourne until at least 1888, eventually being joined by his younger brothers, Jack and Archie Guest.

Next is the report on North Melbourne's match against the Albert Park Football Club, which occurred at Royal Park on Saturday, July 24, 1874. The player roster is limited. The author "By Spotty" refers to North Melbourne team as the "Northern boys." Despite the team's defeat, Lochie Bracken is noted as one of Albert Park's standout players:[191]



FOOTBALL.

By Spotty.

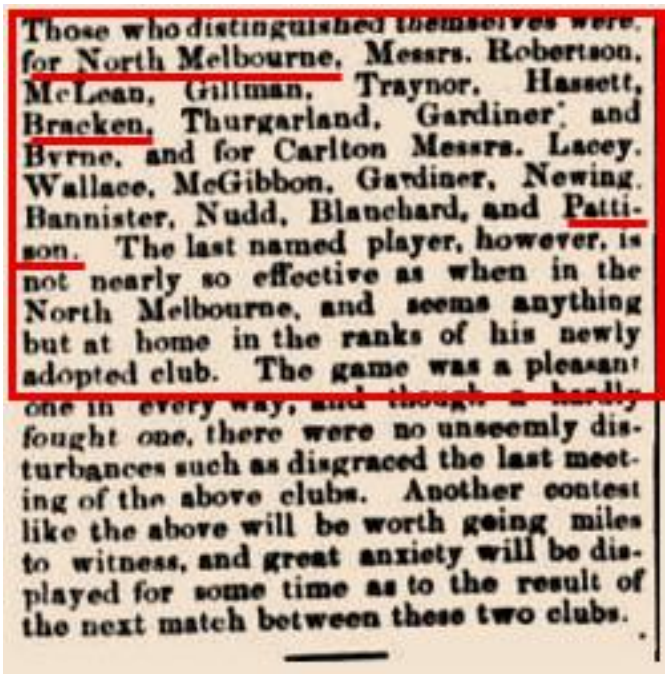
The North Melbourne and Albert Park met last Saturday in the Royal Park for the first time this season, and although the ground was very wet, about two thousand people attended to see how the North Melbourne would play against the Albert. The fact that the latter club only made a draw with the St. Kilda, while the Northern boys managed to win seemed to make the friends of the North Melbourne sure that the Albert Park would not win on this occasion. The game was not commenced until half past three, but immediately it was started the North Melbourne rushed the ball behind the Albert Park goal. Bracken kicked off, and the ball was gradually worked up to the North Melbourne goal, where it remained for a few minutes, until Dillon by some smart play was the cause of it being sent down towards the Albert's goal. Two very good chances were obtained by the North Melbourne, but in kicking they did not allow sufficiently for the wind. When the ends were changed, and the game started again, the Albert Park made an attempt to get the ball down to the North Melbourne posts, but it was not of much use, as the players of the latter club were quite prepared for anything like a rush, and gradually worked the ball back to the Albert Park end. About a quarter of an hour before time, during a little dodging near the Albert Park posts, the ball came into the hands of Sutcliffe, who with a nice kick scored a goal for the North Melbourne. The ball was immediately kicked off by Baker, but it was again worked up to the Albert Park goal, where it remained until time was called. The North Melbourne men played very well, but (with the exception of Baker and Bracken), the play of Albert Park was very poor. The most important matches for next Saturday are Carlton v. East Melbourne, at Richmond Paddock, and Melbourne v. St. Kilda, at St. Kilda.

[190] FOOTBALL NOTES, NORTH MELBOURNE v CARLTON, North Melbourne Advertiser, Friday, July 3rd 1874, Page 2.
[191] FOOTBALL, The Herald Melbourne, Victoria, Tuesday 28th July 1874, Page 3.

1875

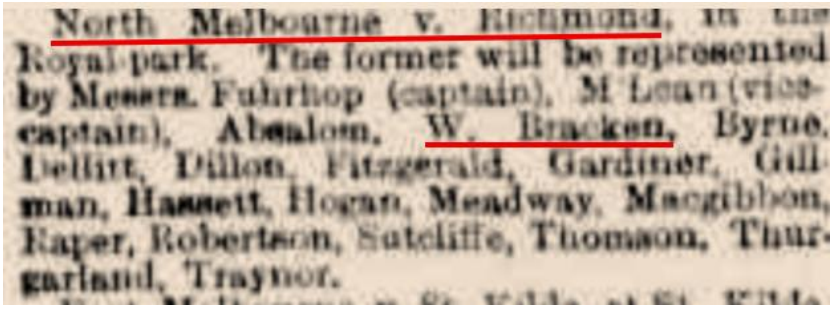
North Melbourne played Albert Park on July 3rd 1875. Playing that year for North after crossing over from Albert Park was Billy Bracken. He is the younger brother of Lochie Bracken. [192] Their father James Bracken (1831-1887) well known as close friends since boyhood to the late John Kidd Guest (1831-1871) and James White all of Templemore Tipperary Ireland, and Jospeh Bracken family part of the small cluster migration to Melbourne.

From the two Bracken brothers, Billy is distinguished playing for North in 1875 because also found among the records for 1875 is confirmation of Lochie remaining with Albert Park before both joined Carlton in 1876. [193]Named for North in 1875 along with Billy Bracken are other North Melbourne players: Robertson, McLean, Gillman, Traynor, Hassett, Thurgarland, Gardiner, and Byrne:



Those who distinguished themselves were, for North Melbourne, Messrs. Robertson, McLean, Gillman, Traynor, Hassett, Bracken, Thurgarland, Gardiner, and Byrne, and for Carlton Messrs. Lacey, Wallace, McGibbon, Gardiner, Newing, Bannister, Nudd, Blanchard, and Pattison. The last named player, however, is not nearly so effective as when in the North Melbourne, and seems anything but at home in the ranks of his newly adopted club. The game was a pleasant one in every way, and though a hardly fought one, there were no unseemly disturbances such as disgraced the last meeting of the above clubs. Another contest like the above will be worth going miles to witness, and great anxiety will be displayed for some time as to the result of the next match between these two clubs.

Billy is further found lining up for North in the first-20 team against Richmond in Royal Park on Saturday, June 12, 1875 He will join his teammates: Fuhrhop (Captain), McLean (Vice Captain), Absalom (W. Bracken), Byrne, Dellitt, Dillon, Fitzgerald, Gardiner, Gillman, Hassett, Hogan, Medway, Macgibbon, Raper, Robertson, Sutcliffe Thomson, Thurgarland, and Traynor:[194]

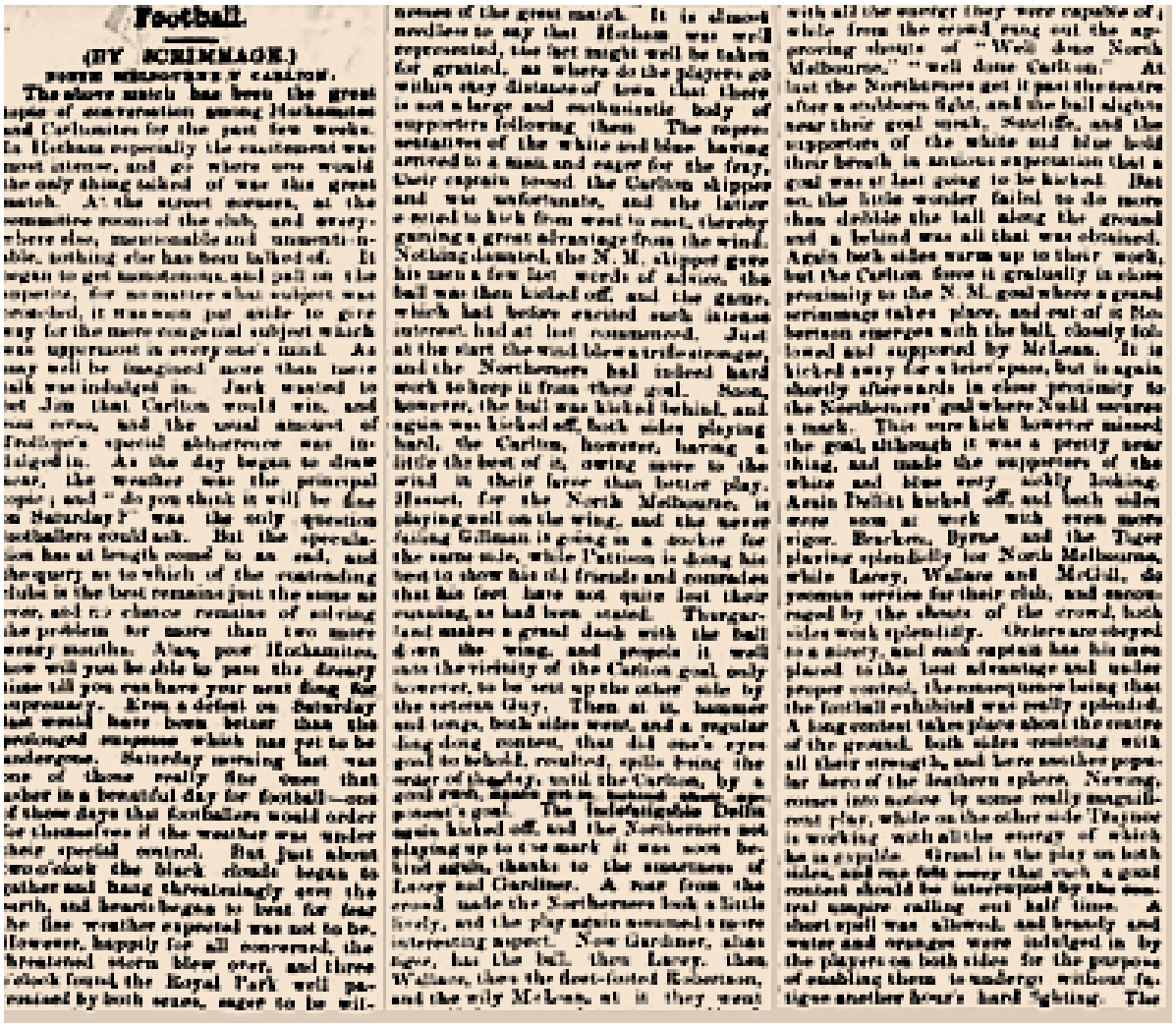


North Melbourne v. Richmond, in the Royal-park. The former will be represented by Messrs. Fuhrhop (captain), M'Lean (vice-captain), Absalom, W. Bracken, Byrne, Dellitt, Dillon, Fitzgerald, Gardiner, Gillman, Hassett, Hogan, Meadway, Macgibbon, Raper, Robertson, Sutcliffe, Thomson, Thurgarland, Traynor.

[192] FOOTBALL, by Scrimmage, North Melbourne Advertiser Victoria Friday 2nd July 1875, Pages 2-3.
[193] FOOTBALL, The Herald, Melbourne, Victoria, Friday 26th May 1876, Page 4.

[194] FOOTBALL, NORTH MELBOURNE v RICHMOND, The Argus, Melbourne, Saturday 12th June 1875, Page 8.

On Saturday, June 26, 1875, Billy is further found playing for North against Carlton at Royal Park. [195] The article by "Scrimmage" names also playing for North: Gillman, Thurgarland Dellitt, "Tiger" Gardiner, Robertson, McLean, [R.W.] Sutcliffe, Bracken, Byrne, Fuhrhop, Paul, and further down the article, additional players from the second-20, including Waugh, Wyle, Pratt, Bickford, Collins, Long, O'Brien, Lording, and Andrews:



Football.

(BY SCRIMMAGE.)

NORTH MELBOURNE v CARLTON.

The above match has been the great topic of conversation among Hothamites and Carltonites for the past few weeks. In Hotham especially the excitement was most intense, and go where one would the only thing talked of was this great match. At the street corners, at the committee rooms of the club, and everywhere else, memorable and unmentionable, nothing else has been talked of. It began to get monotonous, and pall on the appetite, for no matter what subject was broached, it was soon put aside to give way for the more congenial subject which was uppermost in everyone's mind. As may well be imagined more than twice talk was indulged in. Jack wanted to bet Jim that Carlton would win, and vice versa, and the usual amount of Footballer's special abhorrence was indulged in. As the day began to draw near, the weather was the principal topic; and "do you think it will be fine on Saturday?" was the only question footballers could ask. But the speculation has at length come to an end, and the query as to which of the contending clubs is the best remains just the same as ever, and no chance remains of solving the problem for more than two more weary months. Alas, poor Hothamites, how will you be able to pass the dreary time till you can have your next fling for supremacy. Even a defeat on Saturday last would have been better than the prolonged suspense which has yet to be undergone. Saturday morning last was one of those really fine ones that usher in a beautiful day for football—one of those days that footballers would order for themselves if the weather was under their special control. But just about seven o'clock the black clouds began to gather and hang threateningly over the earth, and hearts began to beat for fear the fine weather expected was not to be. However, happily for all concerned, the threatened storm blew over, and three o'clock found the Royal Park well patronised by both sexes, eager to be witnesses of the great match. It is almost needless to say that Hotham was well represented, the fact might well be taken for granted, as where do the players go within any distance of town that there is not a large and enthusiastic body of supporters following them. The representatives of the white and blue having arrived in a mass and eager for the fray, their captain tossed the Carlton skipper and was unfortunate, and the latter elected to kick from west to east, thereby gaining a great advantage from the wind. Nothing daunted, the N. M. skipper gave his men a few last words of advice, the ball was then kicked off, and the game, which had before excited such intense interest, had at last commenced. Just at the start the wind blew a trifle stronger, and the Northerners had indeed hard work to keep it from their goal. Soon, however, the ball was kicked behind, and again was kicked off, both sides playing hard, the Carlton, however, having a little the best of it, owing more to the wind in their favor than better play. Hassett, for the North Melbourne, is playing well on the wing, and the never failing Gillman is going in a rocker for the same side, while Pattison is doing his best to show his old friends and comrades that his feet have not quite lost their running, as had been stated. Thurgarland makes a great dash with the ball down the wing, and propels it well into the vicinity of the Carlton goal, only however, to be sent up the other side by the veteran Guy. Then at it, hammer and tongs, both sides went, and a regular long-long contest, that did one's eyes good to behold, resulted, spills being the order of the day, until the Carlton, by a good rush, made get in behind some opponent's goal. The indefatigable Dellitt again kicked off, and the Northerners not playing up to the mark it was soon behind again, thanks to the smartness of Lacey and Gardiner. A rest from the crowd made the Northerners look a little lively, and the play again assumed a more interesting aspect. Now Gardiner, alias Tiger, has the ball, then Lacey, then Wallace, then the fleet-footed Robertson, and the wily McLean, at it they went with all the energy they were capable of; while from the crowd rang out the approving shouts of "Well done North Melbourne," "well done Carlton." At last the Northerners get it past the centre after a stubborn fight, and the ball alights near their goal mark, Sutcliffe, and the supporters of the white and blue hold their breath in anxious expectation that a goal was at last going to be kicked. But no, the little wonder failed to do more than dribble the ball along the ground and a behind was all that was obtained. Again both sides warm up to their work, but the Carlton force it gradually in close proximity to the N. M. goal where a grand scrimmage takes place, and out of it Robertson emerges with the ball, closely followed and supported by McLean. It is kicked away for a brief space, but is again shortly afterwards in close proximity to the Northerners' goal where Nudd secures a mark. This sure kick however missed the goal, although it was a pretty near thing, and made the supporters of the white and blue very visibly looking. Again Dellitt kicked off, and both sides were soon at work with even more vigor. Bracken, Byrne and the Tiger playing splendidly for North Melbourne, while Lacey, Wallace and McGill, do yeoman service for their club, and encouraged by the shouts of the crowd, both sides work splendidly. Orders are obeyed to a nicety, and each captain has his men placed to the best advantage and under proper control, the consequence being that the football exhibited was really splendid. A long contest takes place about the centre of the ground, both sides resisting with all their strength, and here another popular hero of the leathern sphere, Newing, comes into notice by some really magnificent play, while on the other side Traynor is working with all the energy of which he is capable. Great is the play on both sides, and one felt sorry that such a good contest should be interrupted by the general umpire calling out half time. A short spell was allowed, and brandy and water and oranges were indulged in by the players on both sides for the purpose of enabling them to undergo without fatigue another hour's hard fighting. The

[195] FOOTBALL by SCRIMMAGE, NORTH MELBOURNE v CARLTON, North Melbourne Advertiser, Victoria, Friday 2nd July 1875, Pages 2-3.

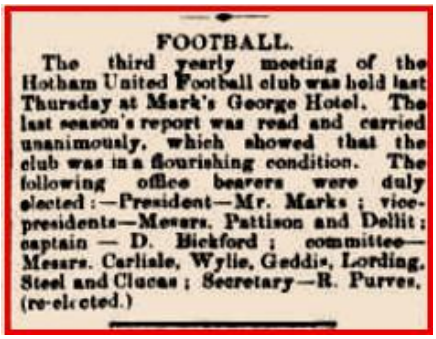
1876

The true origin and birth of North's shinboner spirit?

The spirit of the North Melbourne Football Club, known as the "Shinboners," was vividly displayed during the 1876 and 1877 seasons. Despite a series of misleading newspaper articles predicting the club's downfall, its, players, and supporters remained steadfast. At the time, the true essence of the Shinboner spirit was overlooked as certain pro-Albert Park writers, particularly Pindar and Tindall, relentlessly tied the defection 12 of North Melbourne's best players to Albert Park Football Club, falsely claiming that North had merged with them or ceased to exist. Meanwhile other newspapers reported on North's ongoing activities as Hotham United, showcasing their resilience through recruitment efforts and the elevation of players from their junior ranks, which highlights the enduring spirit of the club during this pivotal period in its history.[196]

This study presents fresh insights into the club's lived experience during the 1876 and 1877 season, highlighting the football clubs' struggles to survive external challenges. The evidence suggests a link between Irish verbal irony and the Victorian Irish Pre-GAA football heritage, particularly the Templemore Citizen-Garrisons rules played in Richmond Paddock, Munster, Tipperary from 1847. This connection may help clarify the true origin the term "shin-boner" and its historical ties to the club's living memory.[197] It appears to be active use of Irish club members sense of verbal irony, and a term which stuck from 1876. [198]

Despite an array of confusing and contradictory newspaper articles which peppered the main Melbourne newspapers during these years the reality falsely reporting the North Melbourne Football Club merged and/or became no more, the club's leaders took a step back, and then propelled the club forward in 1877 to become a foundation member of the new elite sporting organisation, the Victorian Football Association (VFA). To outline the 1876 season chronologically, it started positively enough in the press when it was reported on Friday, March 31st 1876, that the club was in a "flourishing condition." [199]



FOOTBALL.

The third yearly meeting of the Hotham United Football club was held last Thursday at Mark's George Hotel. The last season's report was read and carried unanimously, which showed that the club was in a flourishing condition. The following office bearers were duly elected:—President—Mr. Marks; vice-presidents—Messrs. Pattison and Dellit; captain — D. Bickford; committee—Messrs. Carlisle, Wylie, Geddis, Lording, Steel and Clucas; Secretary—R. Purves, (re-elected.)

Playing as Hotham United in 1976 the public was informed that the club will adorn for the first time it's now iconic blue and white colors, borrowed from player feeder school St Mary Church of England School Football Club, and all players wore the same uniform with its belt-to-belt vertical striped Guernsey.

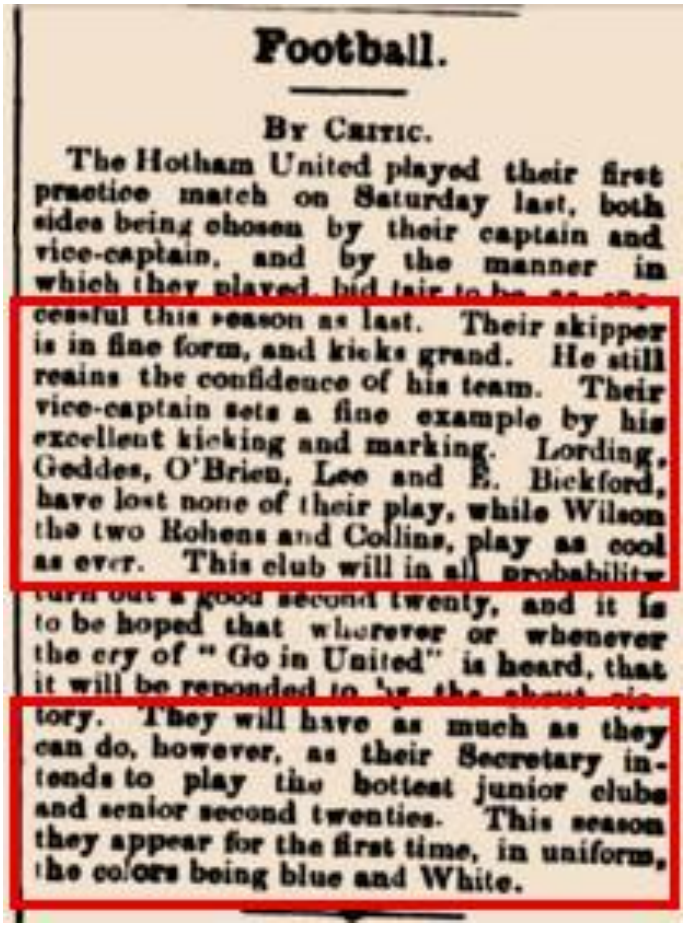
[196] Ibid, Hanan, L, 2010, North Melbourne Football Club, Shinboners, HHP Online:

[197] Guest, John Lindsay Robert (2025, p11). A Grass Roots History of Australian Rules Football - From the Garrison Playing fields of Templemore to Hotham John L.R. Guest, Melbourne, Victoria, NLA Book ID: Libraries Australia ID 121372446.

[198] Saying something but meaning the opposite See also Irish Slang – ***S***ecret ***Lang***uage.

[199] FOOTBALL, North Melbourne Advertiser, Victoria, Friday 31st March 1876, Page 3.

Mentioned also in the report below are well-known club members Lording (Frank's older brother), Geddes, Bickford, and Wilson who by a previous game were in fine form:[200]

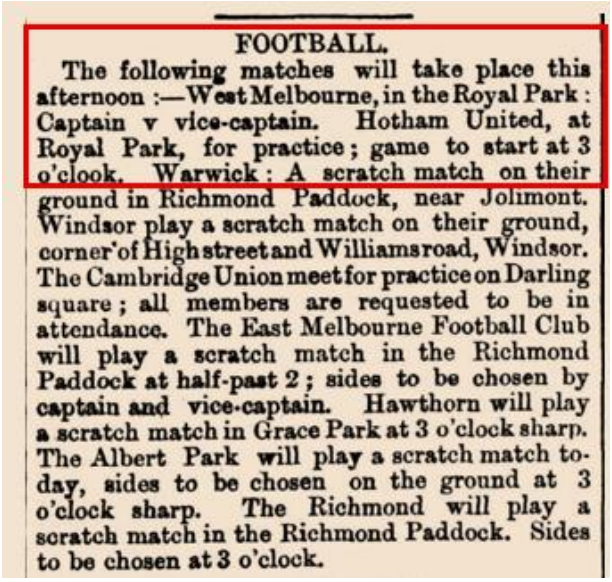


Football.

By Critic.

The Hotham United played their first practice match on Saturday last, both sides being chosen by their captain and vice-captain, and by the manner in which they played, bid fair to be as successful this season as last. Their skipper is in fine form, and kicks grand. He still reains the confidence of his team. Their vice-captain sets a fine example by his excellent kicking and marking. Lording, Geddes, O'Brien, Lee and E. Bickford, have lost none of their play, while Wilson the two Rohens and Collins, play as cool as ever. This club will in all probability turn out a good second twenty, and it is to be hoped that wherever or whenever the cry of "Go in United" is heard, that it will be responded to by the about victory. They will have as much as they can do, however, as their Secretary intends to play the hottest junior clubs and senior second twenties. This season they appear for the first time, in uniform, the colors being blue and White.

On April 29, 1876, the Weekly Times reported that Hotham United had gathered its players to compete in an intra-club practice match at Royal Park This notice indicated North's inclination to adopt the Hotham United name instead of North Melbourne: [201]



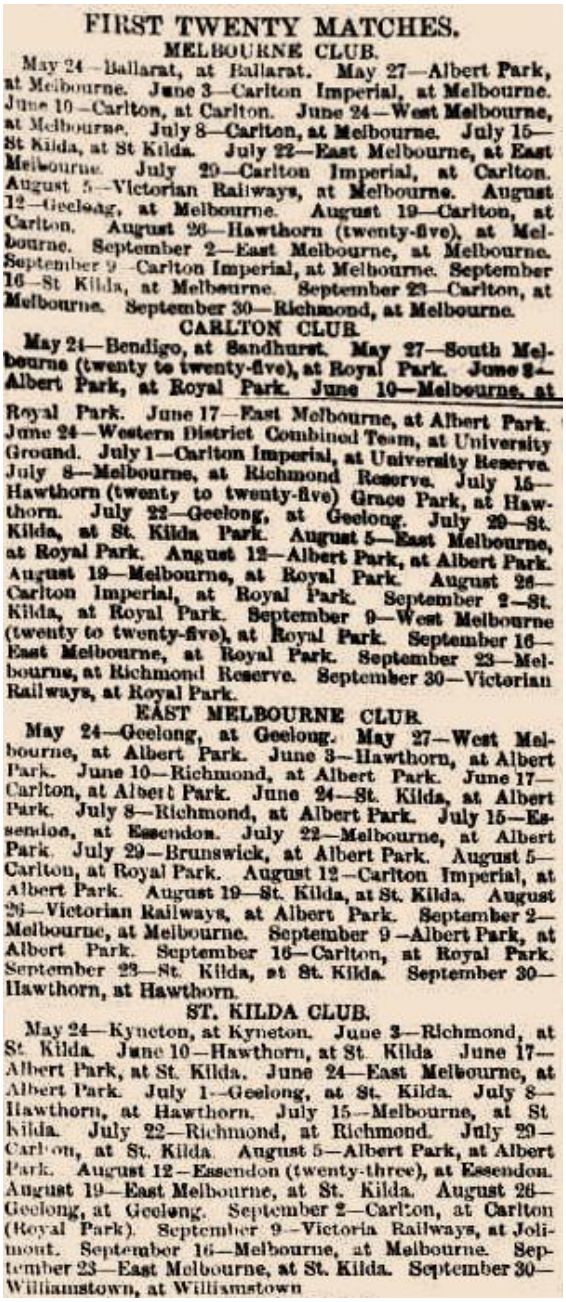
FOOTBALL.

The following matches will take place this afternoon :—West Melbourne, in the Royal Park : Captain v vice-captain. Hotham United, at Royal Park, for practice ; game to start at 3 o'clock. Warwick : A scratch match on their ground in Richmond Paddock, near Jolimont. Windsor play a scratch match on their ground, corner of High street and Williams road, Windsor. The Cambridge Union meet for practice on Darling square ; all members are requested to be in attendance. The East Melbourne Football Club will play a scratch match in the Richmond Paddock at half-past 2 ; sides to be chosen by captain and vice-captain. Hawthorn will play a scratch match in Grace Park at 3 o'clock sharp. The Albert Park will play a scratch match to-day, sides to be chosen on the ground at 3 o'clock sharp. The Richmond will play a scratch match in the Richmond Paddock. Sides to be chosen at 3 o'clock.

[200] FOOTBALL by Critic, North Melbourne Advertiser, Victoria, Friday 28th April 1876, Page 2.
[201] FOOTBALL, Weekly Times, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 29th April 1876, Page 5.

Further, on Saturday, May 20th 1876, the Weekly Times released the full football fixture for the year, showcasing all recognised clubs divided into two competition categories. [202] These categories consisted of a blend of first-tier senior clubs second-tier junior clubs participating in open-age matches.

The fixture also includes friendly games between metropolitan and country clubs. This categorisation matches may indicate that a divisional system, akin to the FA Cup today, was under consideration by representatives from elite or self-proclaimed senior clubs meeting at Nissen Café during this period. [203]



FIRST TWENTY MATCHES.

MELBOURNE CLUB.

May 24—Ballarat, at Ballarat. May 27—Albert Park, at Melbourne. June 3—Carlton Imperial, at Melbourne. June 10—Carlton, at Carlton. June 24—West Melbourne, at Melbourne. July 8—Carlton, at Melbourne. July 15—St Kilda, at St Kilda. July 22—East Melbourne, at East Melbourne. July 29—Carlton Imperial, at Carlton. August 5—Victorian Railways, at Melbourne. August 12—Geelong, at Melbourne. August 19—Carlton, at Carlton. August 26—Hawthorn (twenty-five), at Melbourne. September 2—East Melbourne, at Melbourne. September 9—Carlton Imperial, at Melbourne. September 16—St Kilda, at Melbourne. September 23—Carlton, at Melbourne. September 30—Richmond, at Melbourne.

CARLTON CLUB.

May 24—Bendigo, at Sandhurst. May 27—South Melbourne (twenty to twenty-five), at Royal Park. June 3—Albert Park, at Royal Park. June 10—Melbourne, at Royal Park. June 17—East Melbourne, at Albert Park. June 24—Western District Combined Team, at University Ground. July 1—Carlton Imperial, at University Reserve. July 8—Melbourne, at Richmond Reserve. July 15—Hawthorn (twenty to twenty-five) Grace Park, at Hawthorn. July 22—Geelong, at Geelong. July 29—St. Kilda, at St. Kilda Park. August 5—East Melbourne, at Royal Park. August 12—Albert Park, at Albert Park. August 19—Melbourne, at Royal Park. August 26—Carlton Imperial, at Royal Park. September 2—St. Kilda, at Royal Park. September 9—West Melbourne (twenty to twenty-five), at Royal Park. September 16—East Melbourne, at Royal Park. September 23—Melbourne, at Richmond Reserve. September 30—Victorian Railways, at Royal Park.

EAST MELBOURNE CLUB.

May 24—Geelong, at Geelong. May 27—West Melbourne, at Albert Park. June 3—Hawthorn, at Albert Park. June 10—Richmond, at Albert Park. June 17—Carlton, at Albert Park. June 24—St. Kilda, at Albert Park. July 8—Richmond, at Albert Park. July 15—Essendon, at Essendon. July 22—Melbourne, at Albert Park. July 29—Brunswick, at Albert Park. August 5—Carlton, at Royal Park. August 12—Carlton Imperial, at Albert Park. August 19—St. Kilda, at St. Kilda. August 26—Victorian Railways, at Albert Park. September 2—Melbourne, at Melbourne. September 9—Albert Park, at Albert Park. September 16—Carlton, at Royal Park. September 23—St. Kilda, at St. Kilda. September 30—Hawthorn, at Hawthorn.

ST. KILDA CLUB.

May 24—Kyneton, at Kyneton. June 3—Richmond, at St. Kilda. June 10—Hawthorn, at St. Kilda. June 17—Albert Park, at St. Kilda. June 24—East Melbourne, at Albert Park. July 1—Geelong, at St. Kilda. July 8—Hawthorn, at Hawthorn. July 15—Melbourne, at St Kilda. July 22—Richmond, at Richmond. July 29—Carlton, at St. Kilda. August 5—Albert Park, at Albert Park. August 12—Essendon (twenty-three), at Essendon. August 19—East Melbourne, at St. Kilda. August 26—Geelong, at Geelong. September 2—Carlton, at Carlton (Royal Park). September 9—Victoria Railways, at Jolimont. September 16—Melbourne, at Melbourne. September 23—East Melbourne, at St. Kilda. September 30—Williamstown, at Williamstown

Continued …

[202] ANNUAL ARRANGEMENT OF MATCHES, Weekly Times, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday, May 20, 1876, Page 5.

[203] Perhaps the categorisation and organisation of these games indicate a divisional promotion and relegation systems such as the FA cup in England today was under some consideration by delegates of the elite or self-declared senior clubs meeting at Nissen Café during this period.

HAWTHORN CLUB.

May 20—Williamstown, at Hawthorn. May 24—Kilmore, at Kilmore. May 27.—Jolimont, at Hawthorn. June 3—East Melbourne, at Albert Park. June 10—St. Kilda, at St. Kilda. June 17—West Melbourne, at Hawthorn. June 24—Essendon, at Essendon. July 8—St. Kilda, at Hawthorn. July 15—Carlton, at Hawthorn. July 22—Victoria Parade, at Hawthorn. July 29—Jolimont, at Albert Park. August 5—West Melbourne, at Royal Park. August 12—St. Kilda Alma, at Hawthorn. August 19—Brunswick, at Brunswick. August 26—Melbourne, at Melbourne. September 2—Essendon, at Hawthorn. September 9—St. Kilda Alma, at St. Kilda. September 16—Victoria Parade, at Royal Park. September 23—Brunswick, at Hawthorn. September 30—East Melbourne, at Hawthorn.

WILLIAMSTOWN CLUB.

May 20—Victorian Railways, at Richmond. May 27—Sandridge Alma, at Williamstown. June 3—South Melbourne, at Williamstown. June 10—St. Kilda Alma, at St. Kilda. June 17—South Park, at Williamstown. June 24—Fawkner Park, at Williamstown. July 1—Windsor, at Williamstown. July 8—South Park, at South Park. July 15—St. Kilda Alma, at Williamstown. July 29—Windsor, at Windsor. August 5—Fawkner Park, at Fawkner Park. August 12—Sandridge Alma, at Sandridge. August 19—Essendon, at Essendon. August 26—South Melbourne, at South Melbourne. September 2—Brunswick, at Brunswick. September 9—Richmond, at Richmond. September 16—Essendon, at Williamstown. September 23—Victorian Railways, at Williamstown. September 30—St. Kilda, at Williamstown. October 7—Albert Park, at Williamstown.

MELBOURNE CITY CLUB.

May 20—Victoria Parade, at Royal Park. May 24—Up-country. May 27—Essendon, at Essendon. June 3—Jolimont, at Albert Park. June 10—Carlton Imperial (first twenty), at their ground. June 17—North Melbourne (second twenty) June 24—Brunswick, at Royal Park. July 1—Williamstown, at Albert Park. July 8—Northern, at Albert Park. July 22—Albion Union, at Royal Park. July 29—Victoria Parade, at Albert Park. August 5—East Melbourne (second twenty), at Albert Park. August 12—Jolimont, at Albert Park. August 19—Williamstown, at Williamstown. August 26—Richmond (first), at Albert Park. September 2—Warwick, at Richmond Park. September 9—Albion Union, at Albert Park. September 16—Brunswick, at Albert Park. September 23—North Melbourne, at Albert Park. September 30—South Park, at Albert Park.

ESSENDON CLUB.

May 20—West Melbourne, at Essendon. May 27—Melbourne City, at Essendon. June 3—Victoria Parade, at Essendon. June 10—St. Kilda (second), at St. Kilda. June 17—Brunswick, at Essendon. June 24—Hawthorn, at Essendon. July 8—Hotham United, at Essendon. July 15—East Melbourne (twenty to twenty-five), at Essendon. July 22—Brunswick, at Brunswick. July 29—West Melbourne, at Royal Park. August 5—Warwick, at Richmond. August 12—St. Kilda (twenty to twenty-three), at Essendon. August 19—Williamstown, at Williamstown. August 26—Brunswick, at Essendon. September 2—Hawthorn, at Hawthorn. September 9—Jolimont, at Albert Park. September 16—Williamstown, at Essendon.

Continued …

CARLTON IMPERIAL CLUB.

May 20—Fawkner (twenty-three players.) June 3—Melbourne. June 10—Imperial (twenty-five.) June 24—Richmond. July 1—Carlton. July 8—Railways. July 15—Albert Park. July 22—West Melbourne. July 29—Melbourne. August 5—Richmond. August 12—East Melbourne. August 19—Abbotsford United (twenty-five.) August 26—Carlton. September 2—Railways. September 9—Melbourne. September 16—South Park. September 23—Albert Park. September 30—Fawkner (twenty-three.)

VICTORIA PARADE CLUB.

May 20—Melbourne City, at Royal Park. May 27—East Melbourne second, at Royal Park. June 3—Essendon, at Essendon. June 17—Jolimont, at Royal Park. June 24—Hotham United, at Royal Park. July 1—Warwick, at Richmond Paddock. July 15—Geelong Imperial v. twenty-five, at Geelong. July 22—Hawthorn first, at Hawthorn. July 29—Melbourne City, at Albert Park. August 12—Warwick, at Royal Park. August 26—St. Kilda Alma, at Alma ground. September 9—Brunswick first, at Brunswick. September 16—Hawthorn first, at Royal Park. September 30—St. Kilda Alma, at Royal Park. October 7—East Melbourne second, at Royal Park. October 14—Carlton second, at Royal Park.

SECOND TWENTY MATCHES.

CARLTON CLUB.

May 27—Brunswick, at Brunswick. June 3—East Melbourne (for cup), at Carlton. June 17—Albert Park (for cup), at Carlton. June 24—Carlton Imperial (for cup), at University Paddock. July 1—Up country. July 15—St. Kilda (for cup), at St. Kilda. July 22—Geelong Imperial, at Geelong. July 29—Melbourne (for cup), at Melbourne ground. August 5—North Melbourne (for cup). August 26—Albert Park (for cup), at Albert Park. September 2—Carlton Imperial (for cup), at Carlton. September 9—St. Kilda (for cup), at Carlton. September 16—Albion Union (twenty-five), at Carlton. September 30—Melbourne (for cup), at Carlton. October 7—North Melbourne (for cup), at Carlton. October 14—Victoria Parade, at Carlton.

EAST MELBOURNE CLUB.

May 20—Jolimont. May 27—Victoria parade. June 3—Carlton (for cup). June 10—East St. Kilda. June 17—Melbourne (for cup). June 24—Albert Park (for cup). July 8—St. Kilda. July 15—North Melbourne (for cup). July 22—St. Kilda (for cup). July 29—Carlton Imperial (for cup). August 5—Melbourne City. August 12—Carlton (for cup). August 19—Jolimont. August 26—Melbourne (for cup). September 2—Albert Park (for cup). September 9—North Melbourne (for cup). September 16—St. Kilda (for cup). September 30—Carlton Imperial (for cup). October 7—Victoria parade.

CARLTON IMPERIAL CLUB.

June 17—St. Kilda, at Carlton. June 24—Carlton, at University. July 15—Albert Park. July 22—North Melbourne. July 29—East Melbourne, at Carlton. August 5—Melbourne. August 26—St. Kilda, at St. Kilda. September 2—Carlton. September 9—Albert Park. September 16—North Melbourne, at Carlton. September 30—East Melbourne. October 7—Melbourne.

Continued …

CARLTON IMPERIAL CLUB.

May 20—Fawkner (twenty-three players.) June 3—Melbourne. June 10—Imperial (twenty-five.) June 24—Richmond. July 1—Carlton. July 8—Railways. July 15—Albert Park. July 22—West Melbourne. July 29—Melbourne. August 5—Richmond. August 12—East Melbourne. August 19—Abbotsford United (twenty-five.) August 26—Carlton. September 2—Railways. September 9—Melbourne. September 16—South Park. September 23—Albert Park. September 30—Fawkner (twenty-three.)

VICTORIA PARADE CLUB.

May 20—Melbourne City, at Royal Park. May 27—East Melbourne second, at Royal Park. June 3—Essendon, at Essendon. June 17—Jolimont, at Royal Park. June 24—Hotham United, at Royal Park. July 1—Warwick, at Richmond Paddock. July 15—Geelong Imperial v. twenty-five, at Geelong. July 22—Hawthorn first, at Hawthorn. July 29—Melbourne City, at Albert Park. August 12—Warwick, at Royal Park. August 26—St. Kilda Alma, at Alma ground. September 9—Brunswick first, at Brunswick. September 16—Hawthorn first, at Royal Park. September 30—St. Kilda Alma, at Royal Park. October 7—East Melbourne second, at Royal Park. October 14—Carlton second, at Royal Park.

SECOND TWENTY MATCHES.

CARLTON CLUB.

May 27—Brunswick, at Brunswick. June 3—East Melbourne (for cup), at Carlton. June 17—Albert Park (for cup), at Carlton. June 24—Carlton Imperial (for cup), at University Paddock. July 1—Up country. July 15—St. Kilda (for cup), at St. Kilda. July 22—Geelong Imperial, at Geelong. July 29—Melbourne (for cup), at Melbourne ground. August 5—North Melbourne (for cup). August 26—Albert Park (for cup), at Albert Park. September 2—Carlton Imperial (for cup), at Carlton. September 9—St. Kilda (for cup), at Carlton. September 16—Albion Union (twenty-five), at Carlton. September 30—Melbourne (for cup), at Carlton. October 7—North Melbourne (for cup), at Carlton. October 14—Victoria Parade, at Carlton.

EAST MELBOURNE CLUB.

May 20—Jolimont. May 27—Victoria parade. June 3—Carlton (for cup). June 10—East St. Kilda. June 17—Melbourne (for cup). June 24—Albert Park (for cup). July 8—St. Kilda. July 15—North Melbourne (for cup). July 22—St. Kilda (for cup). July 29—Carlton Imperial (for cup). August 5—Melbourne City. August 12—Carlton (for cup). August 19—Jolimont. August 26—Melbourne (for cup). September 2—Albert Park (for cup). September 9—North Melbourne (for cup). September 16—St. Kilda (for cup). September 30—Carlton Imperial (for cup). October 7—Victoria parade.

CARLTON IMPERIAL CLUB.

June 17—St. Kilda, at Carlton. June 24—Carlton, at University. July 15—Albert Park. July 22—North Melbourne. July 29—East Melbourne, at Carlton. August 5—Melbourne. August 26—St. Kilda, at St. Kilda. September 2—Carlton. September 9—Albert Park. September 16—North Melbourne, at Carlton. September 30—East Melbourne. October 7—Melbourne.

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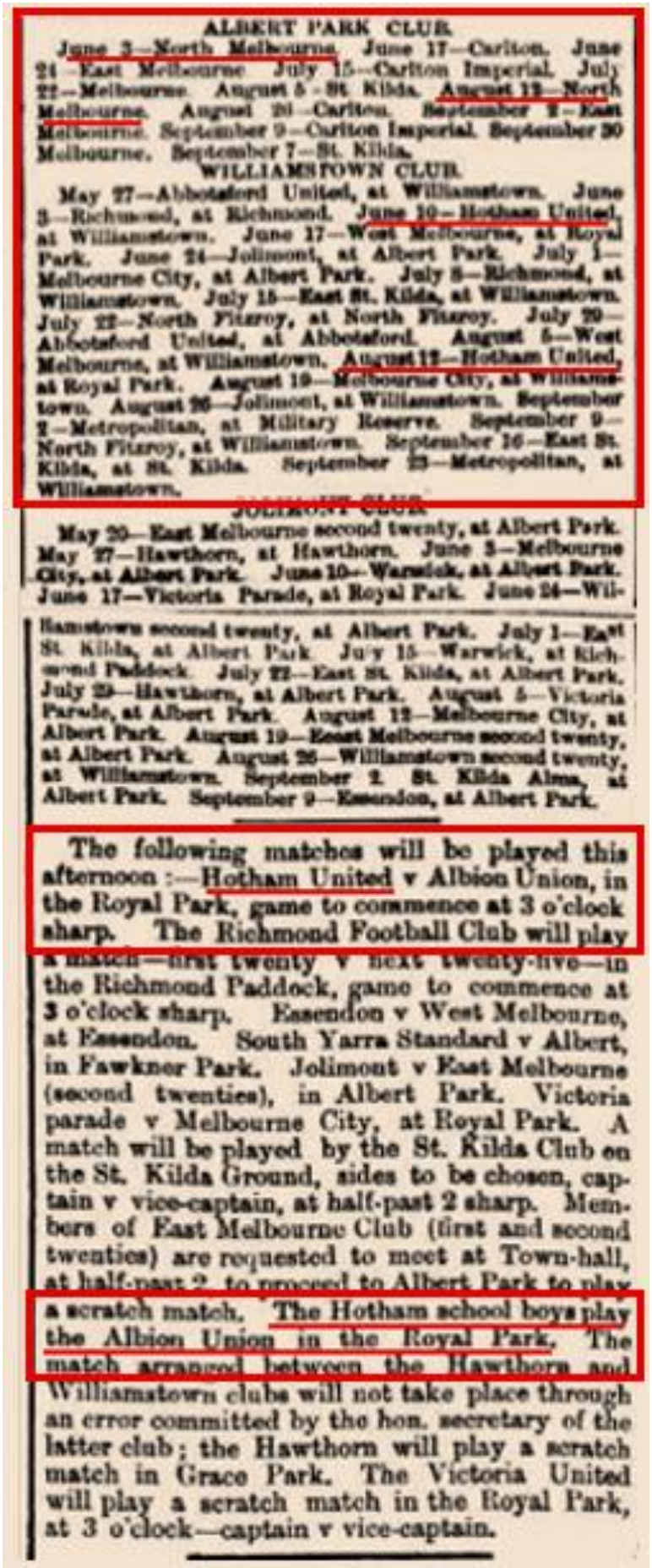


ALBERT PARK CLUB.

June 3—North Melbourne. June 17—Carlton. June 24—East Melbourne. July 15—Carlton Imperial. July 22—Melbourne. August 5—St. Kilda. August 12—North Melbourne. August 26—Carlton. September 2—East Melbourne. September 9—Carlton Imperial. September 30 Melbourne. September 7—St. Kilda.

WILLIAMSTOWN CLUB.

May 27—Abbotsford United, at Williamstown. June 3—Richmond, at Richmond. June 10—Hotham United, at Williamstown. June 17—West Melbourne, at Royal Park. June 24—Jolimont, at Albert Park. July 1—Melbourne City, at Albert Park. July 8—Richmond, at Williamstown. July 15—East St. Kilda, at Williamstown. July 22—North Fitzroy, at North Fitzroy. July 29—Abbotsford United, at Abbotsford. August 5—West Melbourne, at Williamstown. August 12—Hotham United, at Royal Park. August 19—Melbourne City, at Williamstown. August 26—Jolimont, at Williamstown. September 2—Metropolitan, at Military Reserve. September 9—North Fitzroy, at Williamstown. September 16—East St. Kilda, at St. Kilda. September 23—Metropolitan, at Williamstown.

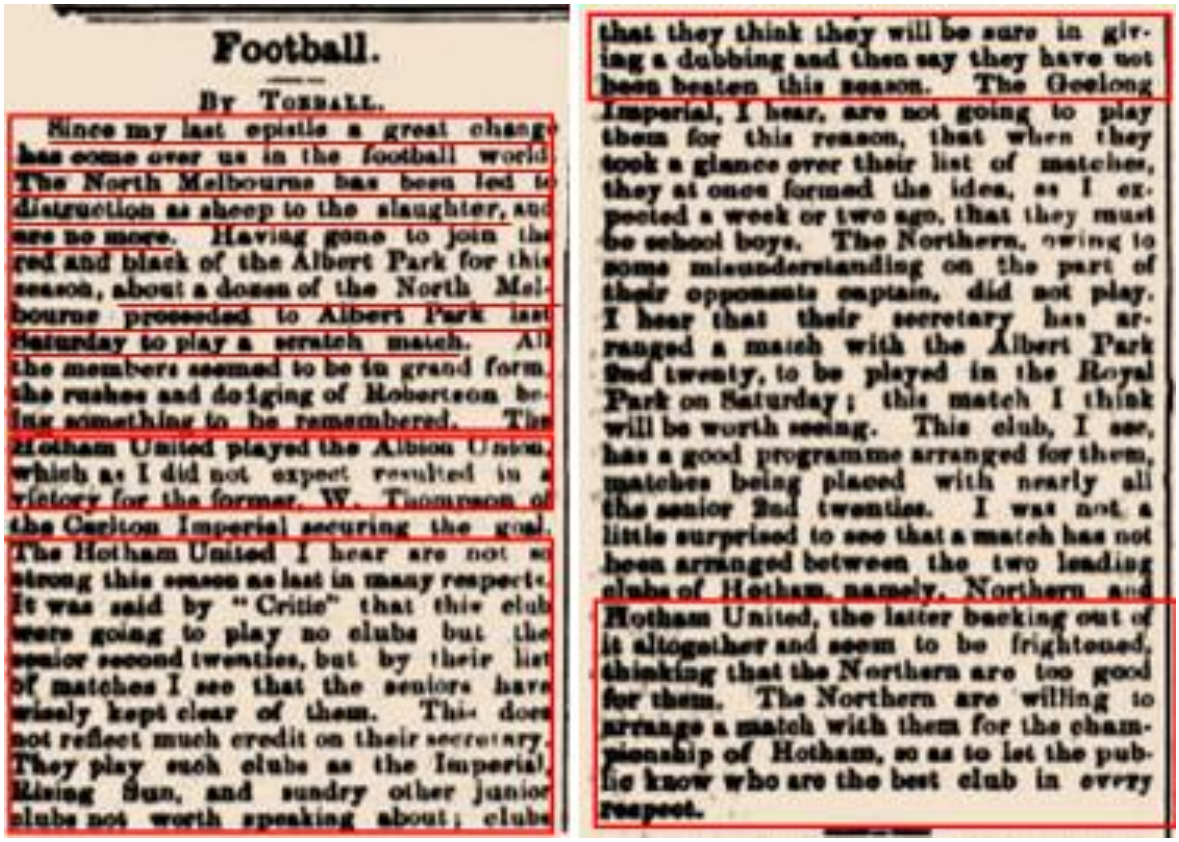
JOLIMONT CLUB.

May 20—East Melbourne second twenty, at Albert Park. May 27—Hawthorn, at Hawthorn. June 3—Melbourne City, at Albert Park. June 10—Warwick, at Albert Park. June 17—Victoria Parade, at Royal Park. June 24—Williamstown second twenty, at Albert Park. July 1—East St. Kilda, at Albert Park. July 15—Warwick, at Richmond Paddock. July 22—East St. Kilda, at Albert Park. July 29—Hawthorn, at Albert Park. August 5—Victoria Parade, at Albert Park. August 12—Melbourne City, at Albert Park. August 19—East Melbourne second twenty, at Albert Park. August 26—Williamstown second twenty, at Williamstown. September 2. St. Kilda Alma, at Albert Park. September 9—Essendon, at Albert Park.

The following matches will be played this afternoon :—Hotham United v Albion Union, in the Royal Park, game to commence at 3 o'clock sharp. The Richmond Football Club will play a match—first twenty v next twenty-five—in the Richmond Paddock, game to commence at 3 o'clock sharp. Essendon v West Melbourne, at Essendon. South Yarra Standard v Albert, in Fawkner Park. Jolimont v East Melbourne (second twenties), in Albert Park. Victoria parade v Melbourne City, at Royal Park. A match will be played by the St. Kilda Club on the St. Kilda Ground, sides to be chosen, captain v vice-captain, at half-past 2 sharp. Members of East Melbourne Club (first and second twenties) are requested to meet at Town-hall, at half-past 2, to proceed to Albert Park to play a scratch match. The Hotham school boys play the Albion Union in the Royal Park. The match arranged between the Hawthorn and Williamstown clubs will not take place through an error committed by the hon. secretary of the latter club; the Hawthorn will play a scratch match in Grace Park. The Victoria United will play a scratch match in the Royal Park, at 3 o'clock—captain v vice-captain.

Spurious reports of North's demise peppered in the Australian & North Melbourne Advertiser

Less than a week after the announcement of the fixture, another football writer, "Torball" stated on Friday, May 26, 1876, reported spurious that the North Melbourne Football would cease to exist:



Football.

By Torball.

Since my last epistle a great change has come over us in the football world. The North Melbourne has been led to destruction as sheep to the slaughter, and are no more. Having gone to join the red and black of the Albert Park for this season, about a dozen of the North Melbourne proceeded to Albert Park last Saturday to play a scratch match. All the members seemed to be in grand form, the rushes and dodging of Robertson being something to be remembered. The Hotham United played the Albion Union, which as I did not expect resulted in a victory for the former. W. Thompson of the Carlton Imperial securing the goal. The Hotham United I hear are not so strong this season as last in many respects. It was said by "Critic" that this club were going to play no clubs but the senior second twenties, but by their list of matches I see that the seniors have wisely kept clear of them. This does not reflect much credit on their secretary. They play such clubs as the Imperial, Rising Sun, and sundry other junior clubs not worth speaking about; clubs that they think they will be sure in giving a dubbing and then say they have not been beaten this season. The Geelong Imperial, I hear, are not going to play them for this reason, that when they took a glance over their list of matches, they at once formed the idea, as I expected a week or two ago, that they must be school boys. The Northern, owing to some misunderstanding on the part of their opponents captain, did not play. I hear that their secretary has arranged a match with the Albert Park 2nd twenty, to be played in the Royal Park on Saturday; this match I think will be worth seeing. This club, I see, has a good programme arranged for them, matches being placed with nearly all the senior 2nd twenties. I was not a little surprised to see that a match has not been arranged between the two leading clubs of Hotham, namely, Northern and Hotham United, the latter backing out of it altogether and seem to be frightened, thinking that the Northern are too good for them. The Northern are willing to arrange a match with them for the championship of Hotham, so as to let the public know who are the best club in every respect.

Torball's article appears deliberately confusing for readers, he mixes up various names linked to the North Melbourne Club, referring to it as the Northerners and Hotham, eventually calling it Hotham United without explaining that Hotham United was the preferred name for the North Melbourne Football Club in 1876.

In contrast, overleaf one can read the Herald's article published the same day which focuses on reporting the start of the new football season, mentioning the Albert Park club's confidence for the upcoming season and listing some players who have moved from North Melbourne. The anonymous Herald writer does not indicate that these players defected from North.

Furthermore, the writer avoids any negative comments about the North Melbourne Football Club and presents their matches under the rebranded name Hotham United in a professional manner.

A lot is gleaned from the Herald article below. [204] Firstly, some of the defectors appear to be named matching known surnames for the North Melbourne Football Club disappearing temporary from the player list at the club also matching 1875: Byrne, Dellitt [has a brother], Fuhrhop, Gardiner, Robertson and brothers W. and R Sutcliffe [father is Richard Sutcliffe]. Confirmed next is brothers Lochie and Billy at Carlton Football Club in 1876.

Important to this study of North Melbourne identities during the formative years is a list of the he first-20 players taking to the field for the club against Excelsior with 21 players named: Bickford, Bickford, Brenan, Carlyle, Crosbie, Dellitt, Geddes, Hogan, Ley, Lillies, Lording, Murray, McPherson, D. Rohan, Stevens, Lording, Stevenson, Thompson, Warner, Wilson and Weston.

FOOTBALL.

The football season will fairly commence to-morrow, when two of the best clubs in the colony meet to try conclusions. Great excitement is felt in athletic circles over this match, as the mettle of the Metropolitan team is well known, and the Albert Park club is very confident. The following is the Albert Park team, and the hon. secretary requests that they will meet at the Town Hall at half past two sharp. Atkinson, Brown, Byrne, Cruickshanks, Dellitt, Fraser, Fuhrhop, Gardiner, Hassett, P. Miller, J. Miller, M'Kee, M'Lean, Power, Robertson, W. Sutcliffe, R. Sutcliffe, Thomas, Traynor, Swift, Emergency—Minchin, Slutter, Addison.

St. Kilda Alma v. South Park, at Emerald Hill (Cup match). Alma team requested to meet on their own ground half-past two o'clock sharp.

Fawkner v Windsor, on the ground of the former, for the Junior Cup. The former will be represented by Messrs J. Masterton (captain), W. M'Gill (vice captain), Kelly, Tomkins, Richards, Cauley, Soutar (2), Wuest, Williams, Ashburton, Kemp, Harrison, Norrain (2), M'Kenzie (2), Callander, Sheppard and Turnbull; with White, W. Tomkins, M'Williams, Bates and Hole, as emergencies, who are requested to be on the ground at 2.45.

Warwick v Tooyah, in Richmond Park, near Jolimont.

South Melbourne (23) v Carlton (20), in the Royal Park. The following are requested to meet at the Hudson's Bay Station, 2.15 sharp:—Treadaway (captain), Addison (vice-captain), Beresford, Wood, Horton, Derlington, Stevens, Groube, Gibson, Gibb, Fahey, Farley, Cooper, Crowle, Whitehorn, Robertson, Robertson, Rowand, Carr, Chapman, Forbes, Isaac, Lee, Prior, Newman; emergencies, Williams, Daley, Lyons. The following will represent Carlton:—Bracken (2), Coulthard, Dedman, Dinmore, Gardiner (captain), Goer, Henry, Kennedy, Kendall, M'Gill (vice-captain), M'Michael, Mathieson, Murphy, Newing, Nudd, Turnbull, Robertson (2), Williamson; emergency, Prevot, Knowles, Amess.

The Hotham United and Excelsior will meet on the ground of the former, at three o'clock sharp. The following will play for the Hotham United:—Bickford (2), Brenan, Carlyle, Crosbie, Dellitt, Geddes, Hogan, Ley, Lillies, Lording, Murray, M'Pherson, D. Rohan, Stevens, Lording, Stevenson, Thompson, Warner, Wilson and Weston.

Hawthorn v. Jolimont in Grace Park, at three o'clock sharp.

Esplanade v. Hotham United, second twenty, on the ground of the former. The following will represent the former:—W. Creber (captain), G. Kelly (vice captain), R. Duckett, C. Bassett, W. Fraser, G. Shaw, W. Davis, H. Connell, C. Fraser, R. Gibbs, M. Johnson, J. Carter, F. Fahey, P. Whitney, P. Martin, L. Betnell, J. Simpson, G. Allen, A. Robb, J. Barlow. Emergencies: A. Watt, Rhind, Brady.

[illegible] v. Fitzroy City, at one o'clock. The team, to represent Essendon, will be chosen from [illegible] Cox, Dredge, A. Graham, Kernan, [illegible] Arnold, Lethbridge, Miller, Martin, M'Cracken (four), M'Hall, Owens, Blake, Ryan, [illegible] Cobey, Webb, Angus, T. Chadwick, M'Dermott, O'Neill, Patterson, Bees, Raper, Tiernay.

[204] FOOTBALL, The Herald, Melbourne, Victoria, Friday 26th May 1876, Page 4.

A more complete list of players is provided by the paper, The North Melbourne Advertiser, of those who actually took to the field for North's first and second teams against Hotham on Saturday, 27th May 1876. [205]

Named below for the first team are:

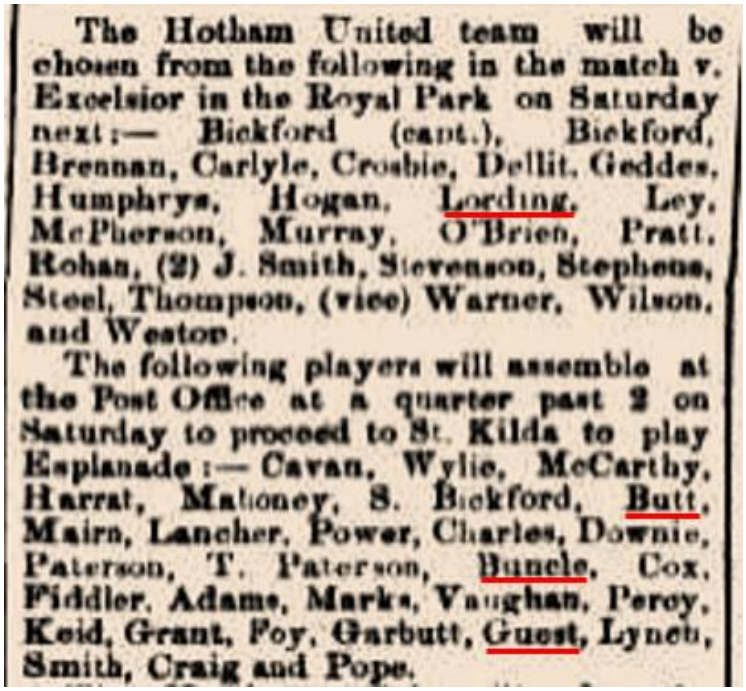
Adams, Bickford (Captain [S] Bickford, Brennan, Carlyle Cavan, Charles,206 Cox, Craig, Crosbie, Dellitt, Downie, Fiddler, Geddes, Harrat, Humphreys, Hogan, Lancher, Ley, Lynch, Mahoney, Mairn, Marks, McCarthy, McPherson, Murray, O'Brien, Paterson, Pope, Power, Pratt, Rohan, Rohan, J. Smith, Stevenson, Stephens, Steel, Thompson (Vice Captain), Vaughan, Warner, Wilson, Weston and Whylie.

Whilst those picked to play for North's seond-20 squad named by the North Melbourne Advertiser on Friday 26th May 1876 were: [207]

Cavan, Wiley, McCarthy, Harrat, Maloney, S. Bickford, Charles, Downie, Paterson, T Paterson, Buncle, Cox, Fiddler, Adams, Marks, Vaughan, Percy, Keid, Grant, Foy, Garbutt, Guest, Lynch Smith, Criag and Pope.

Players listed above, Guest, Butt and Buncle marked below along with Lording are all known school mates, ex-St Mary's Church of England School and also ex the school's football and cricket club.

Player Charles, is taken to be James Charles, club committee man 1869 and later Secretary of the Richmond Football Club, 1886. Certainly, the St Mary's school boys made a favourable impression against Albion Union Football Club the previous week to be included in the second-20 squad:



The Hotham United team will be chosen from the following in the match v. Excelsior in the Royal Park on Saturday next:— Bickford (capt.), Bickford, Brennan, Carlyle, Crosbie, Dellit, Geddes, Humphrys, Hogan, Lording, Ley, McPherson, Murray, O'Brien, Pratt, Rohan, (2) J. Smith, Stevenson, Stephens, Steel, Thompson, (vice) Warner, Wilson, and Weston.

The following players will assemble at the Post Office at a quarter past 2 on Saturday to proceed to St. Kilda to play Esplanade:— Cavan, Wylie, McCarthy, Harrat, Maloney, S. Bickford, Butt, Mairn, Lancher, Power, Charles, Downie, Paterson, T. Paterson, Buncle, Cox, Fiddler, Adams, Marks, Vaughan, Percy, Keid, Grant, Foy, Garbutt, Guest, Lynch, Smith, Craig and Pope.

[205] FOOTBALL, North Melbourne Advertiser, Victoria, Friday 26th May 1876, Page 3.
[206] This player Mr. Charles is certain to be James Charles, 1869 committee man and witness to North Melbourne Football Club's decision to hold its committee meeting in St Mary's Church of England, school room from 1869 and the founding father of the present Richmond Football Club VFA/VFL/AFL extant.
[207] Ibid, North Melbourne Advertiser, Friday 26th May 1876, Page 3.

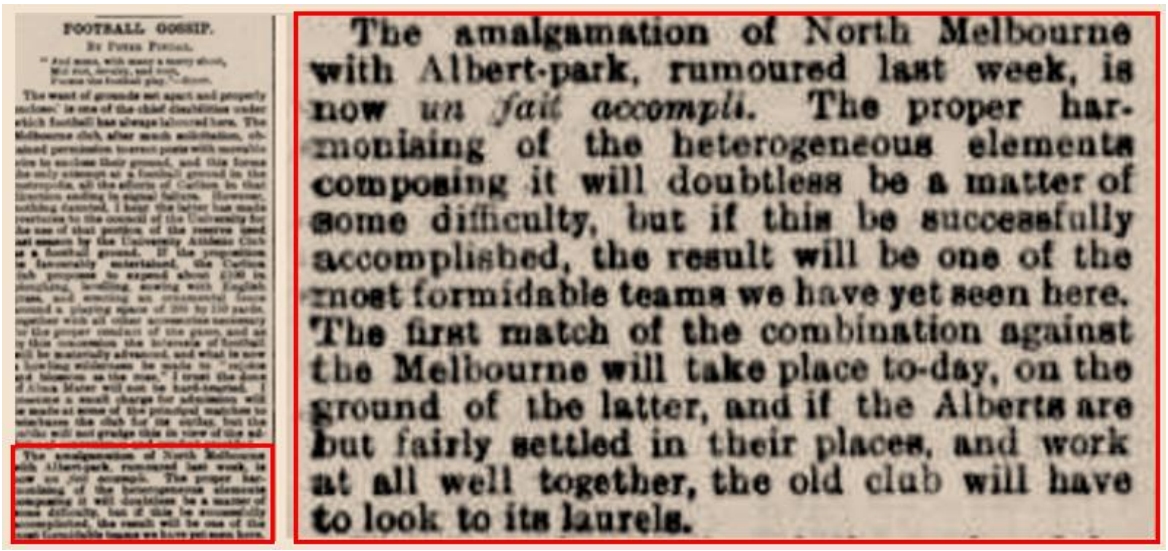
Uncontentious is twelve of North Melbourne Club top twenty players joined Albert Park Football Club. Not said is how North as named Hotham United in 1876 strengthened its first team with experienced players promoted to the firsts from the second team, who in turn welcomed recent ex-players from St. Mary's Church of England. School Football Club. This reshuffling and recruitment of young talent filled the gap left by the departing players.

Instead, as shown by Torball and Peter Pindar's series of articles, they particularly intent on seeing the North Melbourne Football Club, or Hotham United, fail. It is also noted that their articles from May 26, 1876, mixed fiction with reality.

Torball accurately identifies James Robertson as one of the 12 defectors to Albert Park along with Harry Fuhrhop, and one of the Dellit brothers. [208] [209] [210] From other reports we can add as defectors to the list of 12, Swift, Dillon, and confirm one of the Sutcliffe brothers. [211]
If my reconciliation is correct nine of the 12 defectors for the 1876 season only were: Byrne, Dellitt x 1 of 2; Fuhrhop, Gardiner, Robertson, W. Sutcliff, R. Sutcliffe (junior), Swift and Dillion.

Torball, writing for the North Melbourne Advertiser at the time, clearly supported the departure of players. He openly endorsed the revolt and seemed to acknowledge the potential decline of the North Melbourne Football Club [212] Whilst on Saturday, May 27, 1876, Peter Pindar proclaimed the merger of North Melbourne Football Club (known to all in 1876 as Hotham United), and declared the amalgamation with the Albert Park Football Club as "*un fait accompli*": [213]

"The amalgamation of the North Melbourne with Albert-park, rumoured last week, is now "*fait accompli*"

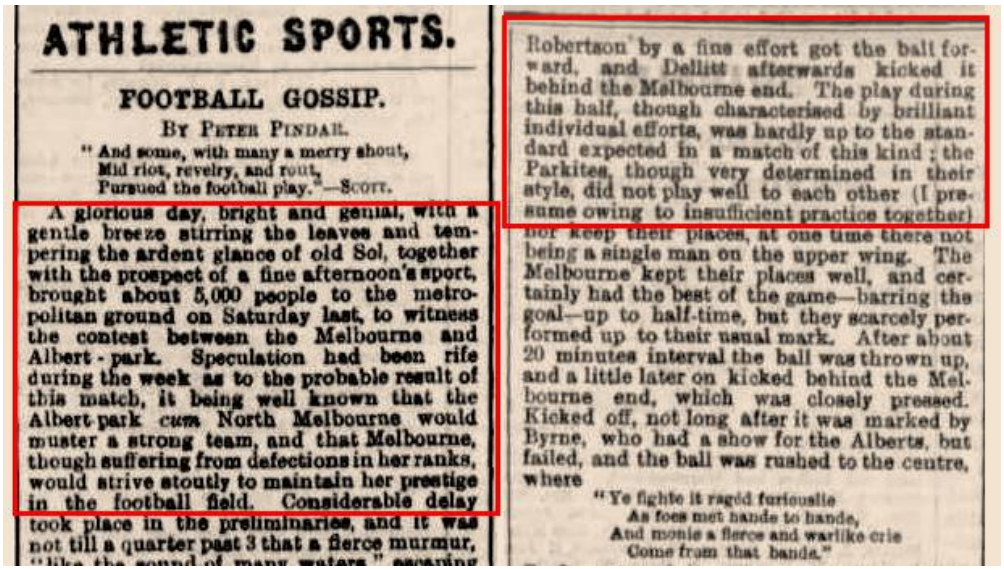


FOOTBALL GOSSIP.

The amalgamation of North Melbourne with Albert-park, rumoured last week, is now *un fait accompli*. The proper harmonising of the heterogeneous elements composing it will doubtless be a matter of some difficulty, but if this be successfully accomplished, the result will be one of the most formidable teams we have yet seen here. The first match of the combination against the Melbourne will take place to-day, on the ground of the latter, and if the Alberts are but fairly settled in their places, and work at all well together, the old club will have to look to its laurels.

[208] FOOTBALL GOSSIP, CARLTON v GEELONG, The Australasian, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 29th July 1876, Page 12.
[209] FOOTBALL GOSSIP, ALBERT PARK v VICTORIA RAILWAYS, The Australasian, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 29th July 1876, Page 12.
[210] Dellit lining up for Albert Park v Carlton, Pindar, P, 10th June 1876, The Australasian, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 10th June 1876, Page 13.
[211] FOOTBALL GOSSIP, CARLTON v ALBERT PARK CUM NORTH MELBOURNE, The Australasian, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 19th August 1876, Page 11.
[212] FOOTBALL by Torball, North Melbourne Advertiser, Victoria, Friday 26th May 1876, Page 3.
[213] FOOTBALL GOSSIP, The Australasian, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 27th May 1876, Page 13.

The following week, on Saturday, June 3rd 1876, Pindar reaffirm his assertion of the amalgamation by reporting on the first-20 team game of Albert Park Football Club against the Melbourne Football Club, which drew a crowd of over 5,000. He included phrase "Albert Park *cum* North Melbourne" in his report: [214]



ATHLETIC SPORTS.

FOOTBALL GOSSIP.

BY PETER PINDAR.

" And some, with many a merry shout,
Mid riot, revelry, and rout,
Pursued the football play."—SCOTT.

A glorious day, bright and genial, with a gentle breeze stirring the leaves and tempering the ardent glance of old Sol, together with the prospect of a fine afternoon's sport, brought about 5,000 people to the metropolitan ground on Saturday last, to witness the contest between the Melbourne and Albert-park. Speculation had been rife during the week as to the probable result of this match, it being well known that the Albert-park *cum* North Melbourne would muster a strong team, and that Melbourne, though suffering from defections in her ranks, would strive stoutly to maintain her prestige in the football field. Considerable delay took place in the preliminaries, and it was not till a quarter past 3 that a fierce murmur,

Robertson by a fine effort got the ball forward, and Dellitt afterwards kicked it behind the Melbourne end. The play during this half, though characterised by brilliant individual efforts, was hardly up to the standard expected in a match of this kind; the Parkites, though very determined in their style, did not play well to each other (I presume owing to insufficient practice together) nor keep their places, at one time there not being a single man on the upper wing. The Melbourne kept their places well, and certainly had the best of the game—barring the goal—up to half-time, but they scarcely performed up to their usual mark. After about 20 minutes interval the ball was thrown up, and a little later on kicked behind the Melbourne end, which was closely pressed. Kicked off, not long after it was marked by Byrne, who had a show for the Alberts, but failed, and the ball was rushed to the centre, where

" Ye fighte it raged furiouslie
As foes met hande to hande,
And monie a fierce and warlike crie
Come from that bande."

A month later, an updated list of 1876 football fixtures was in the Australasian newspaper, positioned just above Pindar's regular Football Gossip article. The fixture clearly highlights Hotham United remaining games for the 1876, dispelling any ideas about the club's extinction or merger with Albert Park Football Club: [215]

ATHLETIC SPORTS.

FOOTBALL FIXTURES.

JULY.

1. Carlton v. Carlton Imperial, at University reserve.
1. St. Kilda v. Geelong, at St. Kilda.
1. West Melbourne v. Victorian Railways, at Victorian Railways' ground.
1. Richmond v. Brunswick, at Brunswick.

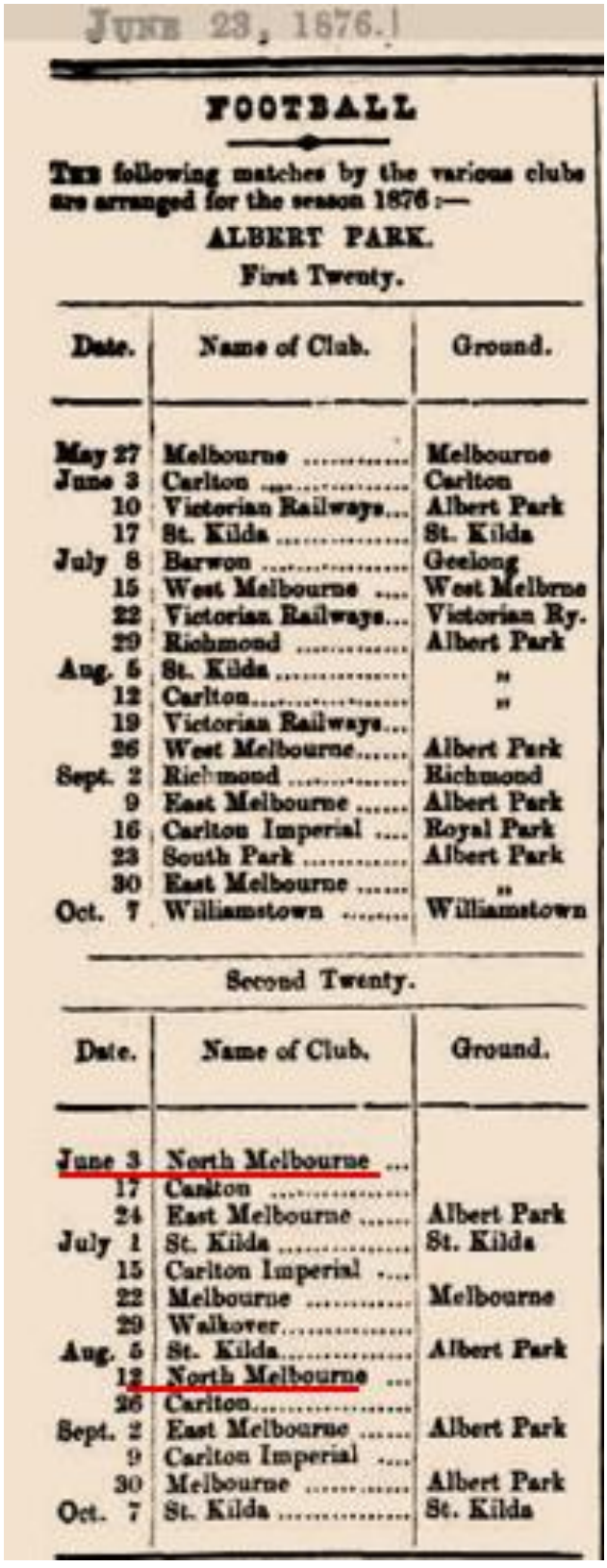
JUNIORS.

JULY.

1. West Melbourne v. Victorian Railways, at Victorian Railways' Ground.
1. Richmond v. Brunswick, at Brunswick.
1. Fawkner v. Sandridge Alma, at Fawkner-park.
1. Victoria-parade v. Warwick, at Richmond-paddock.
1. Northern v. South-park, at Royal-park.
1. Jolimont v. East St. Kilda, at Albert-park.
1. Hotham United v. Rising Sun, at Royal-park.
8. Essendon v. Hotham United, at Essendon.
8. Fawkner v. South Melbourne, at Albert-park.
8. Northern v. City, at Albert-park.
8. Warwick v. East St. Kilda, at St. Kilda.
15. West Melbourne v. Albert-park, at Royal-park.
15. Richmond v. Victorian Railways, at Old Civil Service Cricket-ground.
15. Fawkner v. Sandridge Alma, at Fawkner-park.
15. Victoria-parade 25 v. Geelong Imperial, at Geelong.
15. Northern v. Albion Union, at Royal-park.
15. Warwick v. Jolimont, at Richmond-park.
15. Hotham United v. Brunswick, at Brunswick.
22. Hawthorn v Victoria-parade, at Hawthorn.
22. Essendon v. Brunswick, at Brunswick.
22. Richmond v. St. Kilda, at Richmond.
22. Fawkner v. South-park, at Fawkner-park.
22. Jolimont v. East St. Kilda, at Albert-park.
22. Hotham United v. Imperial, at Royal-park.
29. Hawthorn v. Jolimont, at Albert-park.
29. Richmond v. Albert-park, at Albert-park.
29. Fawkner v. St. Kilda Alma, at Fawkner-park.
29. Victoria-parade v. Melbourne City, at Albert-park.
29. Hotham United v. Albion Union, at Royal-park.

[214] ATHLETIC SPORTS, The Australasian, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 3rd June 1876, Page 13.
[215] ATHLETIC SPORTS, The Australasian, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 1st July 1876, Page 12.

North Melbourne second-20 [216] v Albert Park Football Club were locked in and played each other on June 3rd 1876 and again, scheduled for Saturday August 5 1876 listed in an annual fixtured republished on 23rd June 1876:[217]



JUNE 23, 1876.

FOOTBALL

THE following matches by the various clubs are arranged for the season 1876 :—

ALBERT PARK.

First Twenty.

Date.	Name of Club.	Ground.
May 27	Melbourne	Melbourne
June 3	Carlton	Carlton
10	Victorian Railways	Albert Park
17	St. Kilda	St. Kilda
July 8	Barwon	Geelong
15	West Melbourne	West Melbrne
22	Victorian Railways	Victorian Ry.
29	Richmond	Albert Park
Aug. 5	St. Kilda	"
12	Carlton	"
19	Victorian Railways	
26	West Melbourne	Albert Park
Sept. 2	Richmond	Richmond
9	East Melbourne	Albert Park
16	Carlton Imperial	Royal Park
23	South Park	Albert Park
30	East Melbourne	"
Oct. 7	Williamstown	Williamstown

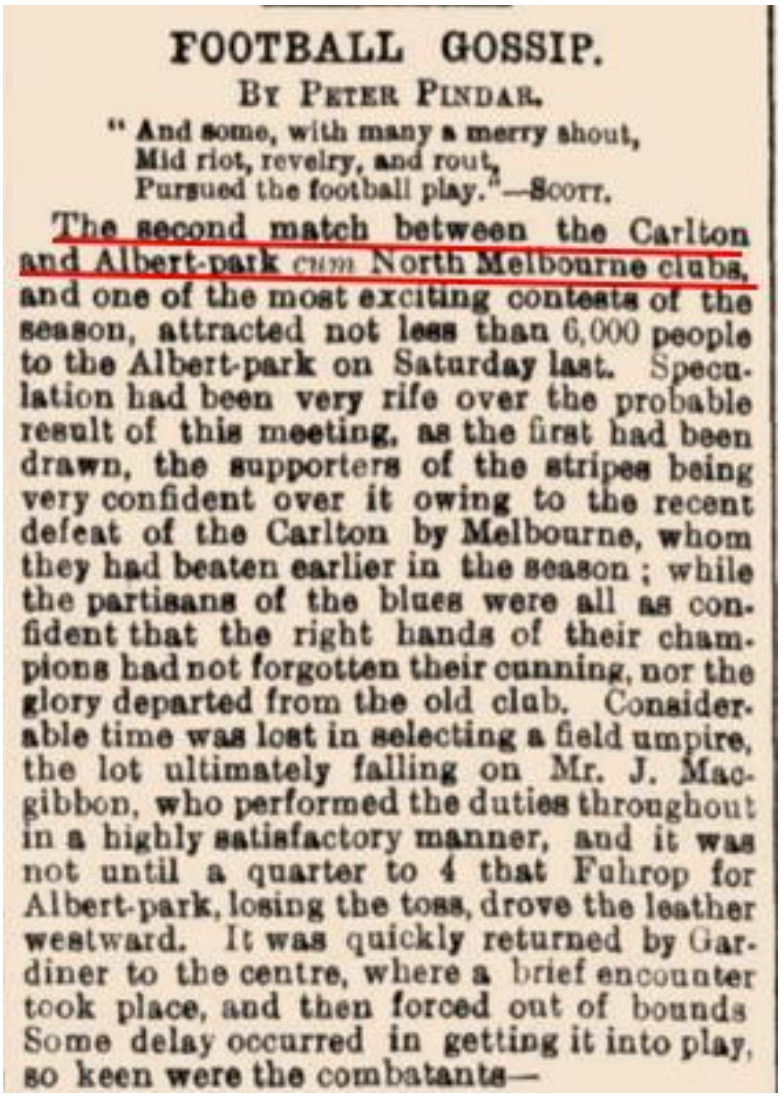
Second Twenty.

Date.	Name of Club.	Ground.
June 3	North Melbourne	
17	Carlton	
24	East Melbourne	Albert Park
July 1	St. Kilda	St. Kilda
15	Carlton Imperial	
22	Melbourne	Melbourne
29	Walkover	
Aug. 5	St. Kilda	Albert Park
12	North Melbourne	
26	Carlton	
Sept. 2	East Melbourne	Albert Park
9	Carlton Imperial	
30	Melbourne	Albert Park
Oct. 7	St. Kilda	St. Kilda

[216] Further example of the liberal interchange by football writers of the club North Melbourne's original name reverted back 1888, and/or Hotham United/Hotham, pre-VFA 1877.

[217] FOOTBALL, The Record and Emerald Hill and Sandridge Advertiser, Friday 23rd June 1876, Page 4.

Then on Saturday the 19th August 1876, Peter Pindar writes a report about the Carlton v Albert Park *cum* North Melbourne clash in front of 6000 spectators, inferring and without substantiation, that Albert Park had somehow miraculously morphed into becoming the North Melbourne Football Club: [218]



FOOTBALL GOSSIP.

BY PETER PINDAR.

" And some, with many a merry shout,
Mid riot, revelry, and rout,
Pursued the football play."—SCOTT.

The second match between the Carlton and Albert-park *cum* North Melbourne clubs, and one of the most exciting contests of the season, attracted not less than 6,000 people to the Albert-park on Saturday last. Speculation had been very rife over the probable result of this meeting, as the first had been drawn, the supporters of the stripes being very confident over it owing to the recent defeat of the Carlton by Melbourne, whom they had beaten earlier in the season; while the partisans of the blues were all as confident that the right hands of their champions had not forgotten their cunning, nor the glory departed from the old club. Considerable time was lost in selecting a field umpire, the lot ultimately falling on Mr. J. Macgibbon, who performed the duties throughout in a highly satisfactory manner, and it was not until a quarter to 4 that Fuhrop for Albert-park, losing the toss, drove the leather westward. It was quickly returned by Gardiner to the centre, where a brief encounter took place, and then forced out of bounds Some delay occurred in getting it into play, so keen were the combatants—

After early June 1876, Pindar's writings do not equate the North Melbourne Football Club with its name change Hotham United. He also avoids mentioning open-age junior matches during this period, indicating his intention for readers to view Hotham United as distinct from the now-defunct North Melbourne Football Club.

His denial of North Melbourne's ongoing existence is clear, despite his newspaper later acknowledging that the cricket section of the North Melbourne Club adopted also the name Hotham United Cricket Club.

Furthermore, Pindar did not inform his readers that Hotham United continued to hold the lease in Royal Park, originally granted to the North Melbourne Club in 1858, and maintained by the North Melbourne Football Club until it became Hotham United in 1868, which strongly suggests organisational continuity.

[218] FOOTBALL GOSSIP, CARLTON v ALBERT PARK CUM NORTH MELBOURNE, The Australasian, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 19th August 1876, Page 11.

On Saturday, October 1876, Pindar concluded the season, which he claimed revolved around the merger of the North Melbourne Football Club and the Albert Football Club. He persisted in his misleading comments, seemingly more optimistic, believing that if he repeated them often enough, they might come true: [219]

A prominent event at the beginning of the season was the amalgamation of the North Melbourne club with the Albert park, by which a most formidable team was produced, which has occupied a place in the foremost rank throughout. Another specialty was the advance made by the St. Kilda club, which had almost sunk to the level of junior merit, but which now may fairly claim all the honours of a full-fledged senior. The

The 1877 apologies implied from misreporting North's demise

The following year, it is refreshing to see Pindar and Torball finally admit their error in circulating false rumours regarding the decline of the North Melbourne Football Club. In the subsequent season, he graciously addressed this by writing about the noteworthy establishment of the Victorian Football Association's elite competition, highlighting that North Melbourne, now referred to as Hotham, was one of its founding members: [220]

> *... "A strong club, composed chiefly of members of the old North Melbourne, which played under the wing of the Albert-park last season, has been ushered into existence under the name of the Hotham. I look for great things from it, comprising, as it does, some of our very best players; and as it has a good, energetic secretary, and a fair committee, I have every hope that its career will be both reputable and prosperous.*
>
> *... Albert Park is very sanguine of making a good show in the senior ranks, but I think, in view of the retirement of the North Melbourne contingent, it will take all the industry and ability of the worthy hon. sec. to place her in her position of last year."*

The present author's due diligence reveals that no Annual General Meeting reports from the Albert Park or Hotham (North Melbourne) Football Club for 1876 or in subsequent years mentioned a merger or amalgamation. The presence of distinct AGM reports from these two separate entities further supports the claim that no merger occurred in 1876 or any other year between the two clubs.

In 1877, during a special meeting, the club introduced a constitution necessary for joining the newly established VFA. At this meeting, they proclaimed themselves a senior" club. Soon after, just before the of the inaugural 1877 VFA season, they absorbed the Carlton Imperial Football Club in a friendly agreement during their AGM, reinforcing their assertion of deserving of foundation club status within the VFA and joining the ranks of the senior elite.

[219] THE FOOTBALL SEASON OF 1876, The Australasian, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 7th October 1876, Page 12.
[220] ATHLETIC SPORTS, FOOTBALL GOSSIP, The Australasian, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 12th May 1877, Page 12.

Matters of Governance – Antecedents to formal constitution of the club in 1877.

In 1879, Sir Isaac Isaacs [221] who would later become Australia's Governor General, granted control of all rights to the cricket division of the Hotham Football Club, originally known as North Melbourne, thereby establishing their authority the original North Melbourne Club founded before November 22, 1855. [222]

This transfer included all rights, responsibilities, and financial control, including lease benefits and duties to the Melbourne City Council for the 4-acre Hotham Recreational Reserve at Arden Street McAuley Road to the North Melbourne Football Club. The club as the football division continued manage the Royal Park ground, held since 1858, until they shifted to Arden Street Oval (Hotham Recreational Reserve) in April 1882 while the Hotham Cricket Club division who squatted there from 1868, gaining the lease in 1873 remained playing its cricket games there until 2013.

Following this decision by Sir Isaacs in 1879, the North Melbourne Football Club began enhancing Arden Street Oval, with dual members of both sporing division of the club, Jack and Will Guest playing key roles socially integrating members across these two divisions after T.S. Marshall's departure as cricket club secretary in 1882 and ensuring the football club's controlling obligations were upheld.

Jack Guest, who succeeded Marshall and his brother Will, who served as treasurer and VFA delegate for the football club, contributed significantly to the club's successful social re-integration, including Jack leading the North Melbourne Football Club's second-20 to back-to-back premierships in 1886 and 1887 in the VFA junior open age competition, and helping in 1886 to ensure all North players wore the new, now iconic blue white horizontal jumper for the first time in 1886. [223]

Below is a collection of players from the North Melbourne Football Club's first 20, gathered on the Royal Park ground in 1876. Some may be second-20 players. They are wearing the old vertical striped "belt-to-belt" blue and white uniform, which was in 1876 first worn by the entire team. This uniform has its origins in the attire of the St Mary's Church of England School Football Club, which many of the club's players wore during their schoolboy years.

[221] Zelman Cowen, 1883, 'Isaacs, Sir Isaac Alfred (1855–1948)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/isaacs-sir-isaac-alfred-6805/text11773, published first in hardcopy 1983.

[222] Guest's bibliography reference materials/consult, used for football club governance, see Halabi, A., Frost, L., & Lightbody, M. 2012, Football History Off the Field: Utilising Archived Accounting Reports to Challenge "Myths" About the History of an Australian Football Club. Accounting History, 17 (1), 63 - 81.

[223] The first player seated far left and last [bearded] player lying on the ground far right, both bare a remarkable resemblance the two studio photographed players unknown, submitted above on page 66 – The lording brothers.

Adding further to the club's photographic archives for 1876, is an image of Frank Clifford Lording (1860-1935), [224] a fine North Melbourne player who made his debut for the club in the first-20 side 1876. He is depicted on the far right in club uniform alongside an unknown player but believed by the present author to be his older brother, Frederick 'Harry' Lording (1855 – 1939) [225]

Unknown player

Frank Clifford Lording in the Hotham (North Melbourne) Football Club uniform in 1876

These images, obtained from the State Library of Victoria (SLV) Picture Victoria Collection, are thought to be the earliest photographs of North Melbourne footballers. The SLV has identified the far-right figure as Frank Clifford Lording (1860-1944).

The author suggests that the other individual may be Frank's older brother, "Harry" Lording, who likely served as general committee member of the club in 1876. Included in full on the next page is Harry's account of his younger brother Frank Clifford's football history, published in the Melbourne Age in April 1937.[226]

[224] Category Frank Clifford Lording 1860-1966, Ferguson and Urie.
ttps://fergusonandurie.com/category/employees/frank-clifford-lording/.

[225] The unknown player is holding the more pointed "rugby" borrowed ball from England. It was not until 1879, Tom Sheerin made the first Australian rules oval bell to 1877 VFA "spec." Many photographic studios, pre-1877 displayed early pioneer Australian rules footballers with the round ball as their photo prop, not having at hand an oval shaped ball.

[226] AN 82-YEAR-OLD PATRON, The Age Melbourne, Victoria, Friday 16th April 1937, Page 15.

AN 82-YEAR-OLD PATRON

North Melbourne Interest.

NORTH MELBOURNE officials have decided to specially entertain the 82-year-old writer of the following letter:—

Essendon, 12th April, 1937.

Dear Mr. Meere:—

I hope you will excuse me writing this about early North Melbourne Football Club. I presume I am about the oldest member of the club, as I date back to 1874, and although I am in my 82nd year I am still following the old club.

It seems remarkable, and it may be of interest to your executive to know, that the first inter-colonial (now inter-State) football match between Victoria and South Australia was played 60 years ago on the old East Melbourne cricket ground before football was played on the M.C.C. ground. The only survivor of the twenty players in the above match is Frank Lording, now living at Mordialloc, who is my brother. We both wish North the best of luck this season, and hope that the old joke about North winning the premiership in 1993 is to be played right out this season.

(Signed) H. LORDING.

Next are two photographs, the first image far left is prominent North Melbourne player Alfred "Alf" Ernest Buncle (1860-1935), [227]also part of the St Mary's Church of England School Football Club alumnus, and recruited to play a long and distinguished career with North. His father John Buncle, JP is pictured to his right: [228] [229]

[227] John Buncle (1822-1899), started his Parkside Iron Works in 1853. His business in Wreckyn Street expanded to agricultural implements and household ironmongery. A founding borough councillor, his name is commemorated by Buncle street.

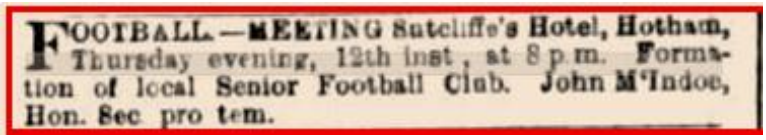
[228] The Age, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 20th May 1933, Page 5.

[229] Photographs are provided by a family member. Alf Buncle is shown with his father, John Buncle, a National Agricultural Society member who helped move the St Kilda Road showgrounds to Flemington.

BIRTH OF THE VFA COMPETITION & NORTH'S CLEVER MOVES

1877

From a club governance standpoint, it was noted just before the start of the 1877 season, Mr. R. Purves as club secretary, stood down, and Mr. John McIndoe, the former secretary, was elected. This was on the eve of the inaugural VFA competition. McIndoe immediately after being elected organised a meeting held at Sutcliffe's Hotel on Flemington Road, Hotham, scheduled for Thursday, April, 1876, inviting everyone to attend the formation of the local "Senior Football Club." [230] [231] This meeting served as the catalyst for establishing a formal constitution for the old North Melbourne Football Club, marking its evolutionary purpose to be, and act as a senior club with the formal constitution in place it could qualify for acceptance as a foundation club of the VFA. This occurred shortly thereafter: [232]



FOOTBALL.—MEETING Sutcliffe's Hotel, Hotham, Thursday evening, 12th inst., at 8 p.m. Formation of local Senior Football Club. John M'Indoe, Hon. Sec pro tem.

Below is an important article from The Age, published on May 13, 1933, which connects to the year 1877. It provides several confirmations about the history of the North Melbourne Football Club and the North Melbourne Cricket, acknowledging F.T. Gell as the inaugural President in 1875. It also notes that both sporting divisions played in Graham's Paddock in 1858, with the cricket division taking up residence in Arden Street from 1868 after leaving the Royal Park ground, which had been continually leased by the club since 1858: [233]

North Melbourne Cricket Club, which afterwards changed its name to Hotham, and reverted later to North Melbourne again, was established in 1855. By public advertisement the club notified that it played every Saturday afternoon in Graham's Paddock (near the old Melbourne Benevolent Asylum). The first president was Mr. F. T. Gell. The club afterwards amalgamated with Royal Park and played in that park. In 1868 the club commenced playing on the present site, and the ground was reserved for cricket purposes, and permissive occupancy granted by the Crown to the Hotham Cricket Club in 1873. The club's most prominent earliest players included Birknyre, M. Smith and Donald. When the present ground was first obtained the club's leading players were R. Collie, Wm. McLean, T. S. Marshall (afterwards secretary of the Victorian Football Association), and who did more for football in Victoria, perhaps, than any other man; Randal J. Alcock (who became one of Melbourne's best-known and wealthiest citizens), Geo.

[230] The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 7th April 1877, Page 12, Advertising.

[231] Deductively, NMCC played on Graham's paddock and perhaps NMFC's scratch match era also started there in 1859 before the clubs moved to Royal Park to play. The football club remained playing in Royal Park until June 1882, and the NMCC left Royal Park at the end of the 1867 cricket season.

[232] The constitution of the NMFC, established as Hotham FC in 1877, served as an important document that outlined the authority between the Committee and its members, defined the club's rules and obligations as a senior club allowing an organised body like the VFA to comprehend the roles, responsibilities, structure, systems, and support within the club, as well as what could be subject to review.

[233] Ibid, The Age, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 13th May 1933, Page 18.

Previous evidence indicates that the pro-British F.T. Gell and his co-founders, who were highly regarded in the North Melbourne community during the 1850 and 1860s, experienced conflict with the pro-Victorian Irish football division members. This disagreement may not have been strictly ethnic, as the club's Irish members preferred the football division of the North Melbourne Club over cricket. The football club's membership expanded significantly starting in 1858, reaching around 50 members associated with the cricket division by 1879.

The 1933 article aligns with the family archive materials and corresponds with family stories suggesting that Gell and his former British co-founders began to socially distance themselves from the North Melbourne footballers post-1860. While the British-born members remained with the club, they formed a close-knit group within the cricket division and tended to isolate themselves, with office bearers only engaging minimally with the primarily ex-Victorian Irish footballer administrators at the Royal Park ground for essential matters. They also accumulated debt within the club, leaving it to the football division members to settle the cricket's debts.

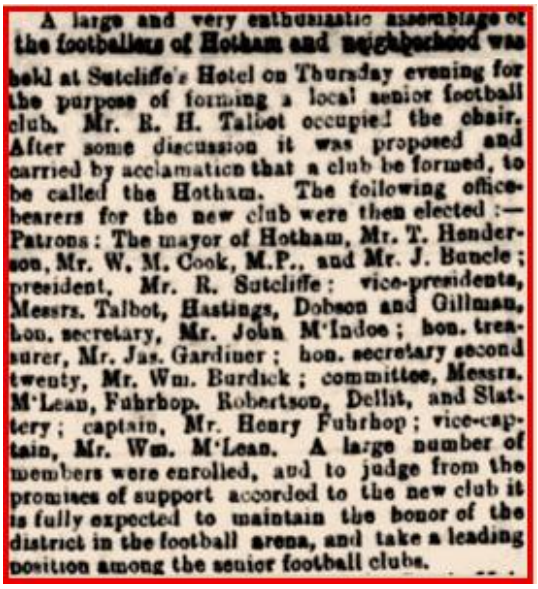
Even with limited interaction in the sports section, the relationship between players and members was tense from 1860 until the mid-1880s, eventually worsening during the joint use of the Royal Park ground from 1860 to 1867. Still, some footballers persisted in playing for the cricket division and vice versa.

In 1868, the cricket division relocated to a four-acre site at the intersection of Arden Street and McAuley Road in Hotham, taking of the land without a lease and ending its use of the Royal Park ground, which had been shared with their football counterparts as part of the North Melbourne Club, established in 1855. It wasn't until 1873 that the Council granted a lease to the cricket division. The Council supported the football division in maintaining the original lease uninterrupted from 1858 until April 1882, during which the football division concurrently held the Arden Street reserve lease from 1879 until 1882. This happened when the court ruled in favour of the football club in control of the North Melbourne Club awarding the football club not only the lease of Arden Street in 1879, but also granted it full control over the cricket division and the entire club.

Additional details reinforce the anecdotal evidence that pro-British member T.S. Marshall experienced fallout with the pro-Victorian Irish footballers of the club 1867. Importantly, T.S. Marshall, F.T. Gell, and Gell's early committee members were all in the club's establishment and growth. T.S. Marshall, who was a prominent player for the North Melbourne Football until 1870, played his final game that year and had been actively involved with cricket club since at least 1868, as Secretary of the Hotham Cricket Club in 1882.

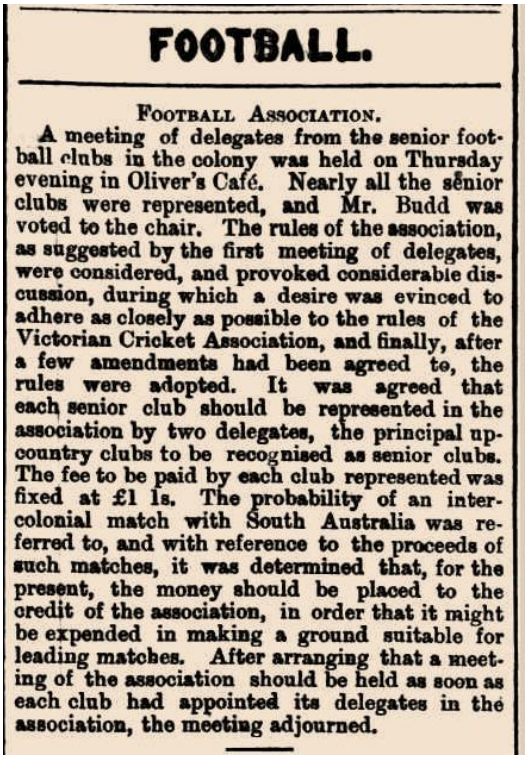
Jack Guest, the current author's grand uncle, took over from Marshall as the secretary of the Hotham Cricket Club. Marshall's impact however on football in Victoria is unmatched, with accomplishments that far outshine his role the North Melbourne Football Club, and one year secretary of the North Melbourne Cricket Club 1881/2 which appears trivial by comparison. While's legacy may have faded over the years, aforementioned 1933 article acknowledges that he "did more for football in Victoria perhaps, than any other man."

On April 14, 1877 the Age newspaper reported on the meeting held at Sutcliffe's Hotel on April 12, where the old North Melbourne Football Club reaffirmed its commitment to becoming a senior" club, a shift that was ratified by its members that evening, moving away from its previous status as a junior club: [234]



A large and very enthusiastic assemblage of the footballers of Hotham and neighborhood was held at Sutcliffe's Hotel on Thursday evening for the purpose of forming a local senior football club. Mr. R. H. Talbot occupied the chair. After some discussion it was proposed and carried by acclamation that a club be formed, to be called the Hotham. The following office-bearers for the new club were then elected :— Patrons : The mayor of Hotham, Mr. T. Henderson, Mr. W. M. Cook, M.P., and Mr. J. Buncle ; president, Mr. R. Sutcliffe : vice-presidents, Messrs. Talbot, Hastings, Dobson and Gillman, hon. secretary, Mr. John M'Indoe ; hon. treasurer, Mr. Jas. Gardiner ; hon. secretary second twenty, Mr. Wm. Burdick ; committee, Messrs. M'Lean, Fuhrhop, Robertson, Dellit, and Slattery ; captain, Mr. Henry Fuhrhop ; vice-captain, Mr. Wm. M'Lean. A large number of members were enrolled, and to judge from the promises of support accorded to the new club it is fully expected to maintain the honor of the district in the football arena, and take a leading position among the senior football clubs.

The article from The Weekly Times, published on Saturday, May 19, 1877 details the establishment of the VFA on Thursday, May 17, 1877. It mentions that a meeting of all "senior clubs" in the colony took place at Oliver's Café, where Mr. Budd was elected as the first Chair of the VFA. Each club agreed to be by two delegates, and the next meeting would follow right after each club appointed its delegates before the meeting was adjourned:[235] [236]



FOOTBALL.

FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of delegates from the senior football clubs in the colony was held on Thursday evening in Oliver's Café. Nearly all the senior clubs were represented, and Mr. Budd was voted to the chair. The rules of the association, as suggested by the first meeting of delegates, were considered, and provoked considerable discussion, during which a desire was evinced to adhere as closely as possible to the rules of the Victorian Cricket Association, and finally, after a few amendments had been agreed to, the rules were adopted. It was agreed that each senior club should be represented in the association by two delegates, the principal up-country clubs to be recognised as senior clubs. The fee to be paid by each club represented was fixed at £1 1s. The probability of an inter-colonial match with South Australia was referred to, and with reference to the proceeds of such matches, it was determined that, for the present, the money should be placed to the credit of the association, in order that it might be expended in making a ground suitable for leading matches. After arranging that a meeting of the association should be held as soon as each club had appointed its delegates in the association, the meeting adjourned.

[234] FOOTBALL, The Age, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 14th April 1877, Page 7.

[235] FOOTBALL Weekly Times, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 19th May 1877, Page 5.

[236] Oliver's Café is taken by the present author as an error for Nissen's Café.

Just under five weeks after North Melbourne Football Club merged with Carlton Imperial Football Club, North's transition into an elite 'senior' club, which had previously been mere rhetoric, became a reality on Thursday, May 17, 1877. On that day, the former North Melbourne Football Club regained its dignity by being accepted as a founding member of the newly established Victorian Football Association.

On Friday, May 18, 1877 the Argus newspaper published the complete inaugural 1877 VFA fixture for both the first and second 20 competitions. The following submission follows the Argus newspapers pattern of referring to the North Melbourne as Hotham and on a separate occasion Hotham United: [237] [238]

FOOTBALL ENGAGEMENTS.

A meeting of the secretaries of the various football clubs was held at Nissen's Café last evening, for the purpose of arranging matches for the coming season.

MELBOURNE CLUB.

May 19—West Melbourne (25), at Melbourne.
May 26—North Fitzroy (25), at Melbourne.
June 2—Hotham, at Melbourne.
June 9—Carlton, at Melbourne.
June 16—Hawthorn (25), at Melbourne.
June 23—Barwon, at Melbourne.
June 30—St. Kilda, at St. Kilda.
July 2—Inglewood (25), at Inglewood.
July 7—Geelong, at Geelong.
July 14—Carlton, at Carlton.
July 21—Williamstown (25), at Melbourne.
July 28—Hotham, at Hotham.
Aug. 4—Essendon (25), at Melbourne.
Aug. 11—Albert-park, at Albert-park.
Aug. 18—West Melbourne (25), at West Melbourne.
Aug. 25—Carlton, at Melbourne.
Sept. 1—Public Schools (25), at Melbourne.
Sept. 8—Hotham, at Melbourne.
Sept. 15—Albert-park, at Melbourne.
Sept. 22—St. Kilda, at Melbourne.
Sept. 29—Carlton, at Carlton.

MELBOURNE SECOND TWENTY.

May 24—Clifton, at Melbourne.
May 26—Carlton, at Melbourne.
June 2—Hotham, at Melbourne.
June 16—Warwick, at Melbourne.
June 23—Northcote, at Crexton-park.
June 30—St. Kilda, at St. Kilda.
July 7—Abbotsford, at Melbourne.
July 21—Essendon, at Essendon.
July 28—Warwick, at Melbourne.
Aug. 4—Clifton, at Clifton.
Aug. 11—Carlton Imperial, at Melbourne.
Aug. 18—Keilor, at Keilor.
Sept. 1—Carlton, at Carlton.
Sept. 8—Coast, at Melbourne.
Sept. 15—Geelong, at Geelong.
Sept. 22—Northcote, at Melbourne.

Continued …

[237] FOOTBALL ENGAGEMENTS, The Argus Melbourne, Victoria, Friday 18th May 1877, Page 7.
[238] The Hotham Hill Football team is thought to be the name given to the remaining players from the former St Mary's Church of England School Football Club, who took the field as a third open-age junior team. By 1885, this "third 20 squad" had reportedly changed its name to Courtney United, in to the growing interest of youth in North Melbourne wanting to join the club. For more information, see "Small Footballers in Rough Places season 1883, page 110 below.

CARLTON CLUB.

May 24—Ballarat, at Ballarat.
May 26—West Melbourne (2), at Carlton.
June 2—Victorian Railways (18), at Carlton.
June 9—Melbourne, on the Melbourne Cricket ground.
June 16—Albert-park, at Albert-park.
June 22 and 23—Waverley, at Sydney, N.S.W. First day, Victorian rules; second day, Rugby U.
June 30—Williamstown (30 to 18), at Carlton.
July 7—Botham, at Carlton.
July 14—Melbourne, at Carlton.
July 21—St. Kilda, at St. Kilda.
July 28—Geelong, at Carlton.
Aug. 4—Albert-park, at Carlton.
Aug. 11—Hawthorn (2), at Carlton.
Aug. 18—Botham, at Carlton.
Aug. 25—Melbourne, at Melbourne.
Sept. 1—South Melbourne (2), at Carlton.
Sept. 8—St. Kilda, at Carlton.
Sept. 15—Fitzroy (20 to 18), at Carlton.
Sept. 22—Geelong, for Hospital Saturday.
Sept. 29—Melbourne, at Carlton, for Melbourne Hospital.

ALBERT-PARK FIRST TWENTY.

May 19—Carlton Imperial, at Albert-park.
May 26—Caulfield, at Caulfield.
June 2—St. Kilda, at St. Kilda.
June 9—Brighton, at Brighton.
June 16—Carlton, at Albert-park.
June 23—Victorian Railways, at Albert-park.
June 30—Botham-hill (15), at Albert-park.
July 7—Fairfield, at Geelong.
July 14—Botham United (2), at Albert-park.
July 21—Botham, at Albert-park.
July 28—Carlton Imperial, at Carlton.
Aug. 4—Carlton, at Carlton.
Aug. 11—Melbourne, at Albert-park.
Aug. 18—St. Kilda, at Albert-park.
Aug. 25—Carlton Imperial, at Albert-park.
Sept. 1—Botham, at Royal-park.
Sept. 8—Geelong, at Geelong.
Sept. 15—Melbourne, at Melbourne.
Sept. 22—Botham, at Albert-park.

ALBERT-PARK SECOND TWENTY.

June 9—St. Kilda second twenty, at Albert-park.
June 16—Carlton Imperial second twenty, at Carlton.
June 23—Excelsior, at Albert-park.
June 30—Richmond Standard, at Albert-park.
July 7—Carlton second twenty, at Albert-park.
July 14—Abbotsford, at Albert-park.
July 21—Botham second twenty, at Royal-park.
July 28—Richmond Standard, at Richmond.
Aug. 4—St. Kilda second twenty, at St. Kilda.
Aug. 18—Carlton Imperial, at Albert-park.
Aug. 25—Imperial, at Albert-park.
Sept. 1—Botham second twenty, at Albert-park.
Sept. 8—Excelsior, at Royal-park.
Sept. 15—Abbotsford, at Collingwood.
Sept. 22—Carlton second twenty, at Royal-park.
Sept. 29—Botham second twenty, at Royal-park.

BOTHAM CLUB.

May 26—Fawkner (2), at Fawkner-park.
June 7—Melbourne, at Melbourne.
June 12—Fawkner (2), at Royal-park.
June 30—Keilor (2), at Keilor.
July 7—Carlton, at Carlton.
July 14—Keilor (15), at Royal-park.
July 21—Albert-park, at Albert-park.
July 28—Melbourne, at Royal-park.
Aug. 4—Carlton Imperial, at Royal-park.
Aug. 11—Darwin, at Geelong.
Aug. 18—Carlton, at Carlton.
Aug. 25—Williamstown (2), at Royal-park.
Sept. 1—Albert-park, at Royal-park.
Sept. 8—Melbourne, at Melbourne.
Sept. 15—Botham United (2), at Royal-park.
Sept. 22—Albert-park, at Albert-park.
Sept. 29—Williamstown (2), at Williamstown.

Continued …

ST. KILDA CLUB.

May 24—Kyneton, at Kyneton.
May 26—Hawthorn, at St. Kilda.
June 2—Albert-park, at St. Kilda.
June 9—Williamstown, at St. Kilda.
June 16—Essendon, at St. Kilda.
June 23—Williamstown, at Williamstown.
June 30—Melbourne, at St. Kilda.
July 14—Geelong, at Geelong.
July 21—Carlton, at St. Kilda.
July 28—Essendon, at Essendon.
Aug. 4—Hawthorn, at Hawthorn.
Aug. 11—South Melbourne, at St. Kilda.
Aug. 18—Albert-park, at Albert-park.
Aug. 25—Geelong, at St. Kilda.
Sept. 1—Hawthorn, at Hawthorn.
Sept. 8—Carlton, at Carlton.
Sept. 15—South Melbourne, at South Melbourne.
Sept. 22—Melbourne, at Melbourne.

CARLTON IMPERIAL SECOND TWENTY.

May 16—Excelsior, at University-ground.
June 9—Northcote, at University-ground.
June 16—Albert-park, at University-ground.
June 23—Hotham-hill, at Royal-park.
June 30—Clifton, at Darling-gardens.
July 7—Excelsior, at Royal-park.
July 14—Collingwood, at Collingwood.
July 21—East St. Kilda, at University-ground.
July 28—Abbotsford, at University-ground.
Aug. 4—Carlton second twenty, at University-ground.
Aug. 11—Melbourne second twenty, at Melbourne.
Aug. 18—Albert-park second twenty, at Albert-park.
Aug. 25—Hotham second twenty, at Royal-park.
Sept. 1—Clifton, at University ground.
Sept. 8—Carlton second twenty, at Royal-park.
Sept. 15—Hotham second twenty, University.
Sept. 22—Collingwood, at University.
Sept. 29—Abbotsford, at Abbotsford.

HAWTHORN FIRST TWENTY.

May 24—Kilmore, at Kilmore.
May 26—St. Kilda, at St. Kilda.
June 2—West Melbourne, at Royal-park.
June 16—Melbourne, at Melbourne.
June 23—Essendon, at Essendon.
June 30—Hotham, at Hawthorn.
July 7—Northcote, at Northcote.
July 14—Victorian Railways, at Jolimont.
July 21—West Melbourne, at Hawthorn.
Aug. 4—St. Kilda, at Hawthorn.
Aug. 11—Carlton, at Carlton.
Aug. 18—Essendon, at Hawthorn.
Aug. 25—Victorian Railways, at Hawthorn.
Sept. 1—St. Kilda, at Hawthorn.
Sept. 8—Hotham, at Hotham.

HAWTHORN SECOND TWENTY.

May 19—St. Kilda Esplanade, at St. Kilda.
May 24—Balaclava, at Hawthorn.
May 26—Sands and M'Dougall's, at Hawthorn.
June 2—Coast, at Hawthorn.
June 9—Clifton, at Clifton.
June 16—Essendon, at Hawthorn.
June 23—Toorak, at Toorak.
June 30—Albert, at Hawthorn.
July 7—West of England, at Hawthorn.
July 14—St. Kilda, at St. Kilda.
July 21—St. Kilda Esplanade, at Hawthorn.
July 28—Coast, at Elsternwick.
Aug. 4—Toorak, at Hawthorn.
Aug. 11—West Melbourne (second), at Hawthorn.
Aug. 18—Clifton, at Hawthorn.
Aug. 25—Essendon, at Essendon.
Sept. 1—South Melbourne (second), at Hawthorn.
Sept. 8—Albert, at Fawkner park.
Sept. 15—St. Kilda, at Hawthorn.
Sept. 22—East St. Kilda, at Hawthorn.
Sept. 29—Balaclava, at Windsor.

Continued …

ESSENDON FIRST TWENTY.

May 19—Victorian Railways, at Essendon.
May 24—Ballarat, at Ballarat.
May 26—Standard (2), at Essendon.
June 2—Williamstown, at Essendon.
June 9—Albert-park, at Essendon.
June 16—St. Kilda, at St. Kilda.
June 23—Hawthorn, at Essendon.
June 30—South Melbourne, at Essendon.
July 7—Victorian Railways, at Victorian Railways.
July 14—West Melbourne, at Essendon.
July 21—Northcote, at Northcote.
July 28—St. Kilda, at Essendon.
Aug. 4—Melbourne (v. 25), at Melbourne.
Aug. 11—East St. Kilda, at St. Kilda.
Aug. 18—Hawthorn, at Hawthorn.
Aug. 25—West Melbourne, at Royal-park.
Sept. 1—Geelong, at Geelong.
Sept. 8—Northcote, at Essendon.
Sept. 15—Carlton (v. 25), open.
Sept. 22—South Melbourne, at Albert-park.

ESSENDON SECOND TWENTY.

May 26—Esplanade, at St. Kilda.
June 2—Victoria United, at Royal-park.
June 9—Warwick, at Richmond.
June 16—Hawthorn, at Hawthorn.
June 23—Keilor, at Essendon.
June 30—Esplanade, at Essendon.
July 7—Warwick, at Essendon.
July 14—Toorak, at Toorak.
July 21—Melbourne, at Essendon.
July 28—St. Kilda, at St. Kilda.
Aug. 4—Lincoln United, at Essendon.
Aug. 11—Victoria United, at Essendon.
Aug. 18—Melbourne, at Melbourne.
Aug. 25—Hawthorn, at Essendon.
Sept. 1—Toorak, at Essendon.
Sept. 8—Lincoln United, at Royal-park.
Sept. 15—Bellevue, at Essendon.

HOTHAM SECOND TWENTY.

May 19—Hotham-hill, at Hotham.
June 2—Melbourne, at Melbourne.
June 9—East St. Kilda, at Hotham.
June 16—Williamstown, at Williamstown.
June 23—Brunswick, at Brunswick.
June 30—Hawthorn, at Hawthorn.
July 7—West Melbourne, at West Melbourne.
July 14—Brunswick, at Hotham.
July 21—Albert-park, at Hotham.
July 28—Carlton, at Carlton.
Aug. 4—Brunswick, at Brunswick.
Aug. 11—Carlton, at Hotham.
Aug. 18—Williamstown, at Hotham.
Aug. 25—Carlton Imperial, at Hotham.
Sept. 1—Albert-park, at Albert-park.
Sept. 8—Hawthorn, at Hotham.
Sept. 15—Carlton Imperial, at University.
Sept. 22—Hotham-hill, at Hotham.
Sept. 29—Albert-park, at Hotham.

RICHMOND STANDARD.

May 19, 24—East St. Kilda, at Richmond.
May 26—Essendon (twenty-five), at Essendon.
June 2—Footscray, at Footscray.
June 9—Balaclava, at Richmond.
June 16—Cosmopolitan, at Richmond.
June 23—Williamstown, at Williamstown.
June 30—Albert-park, Second Twenty, at Albert-park.
July 7—Collingwood, at Richmond.
July 21—Metropolitan Artillery, at Royal-park.
July 28—Albert-park Second Twenty, at Richmond.
Aug. 4—Cosmopolitan, at Royal-park.
Aug. 11—Balaclava, at Windsor.
Aug. 18—Williamstown, at Richmond.
Aug. 25—Clifton, at Richmond.
Sept. 1—Metropolitan Artillery, at Richmond.
Sept. 8—South Yarra Standard, at Richmond.
Sept. 15—Clifton, at Darling-gardens.
Sept. 22—Footscray, at Richmond.
Oct. 6—South Yarra Standard, at Fawkner-park.

Continued …

VICTORIAN RAILWAYS.

May 19—Essendon, at Essendon.
May 24—Bendigo, at Sandhurst.
May 26—North Fitzroy, at Jolimont.
June 2—Carlton, at Carlton.
June 16—West Melbourne, at Royal-park.
June 23—Albert-park, at Albert-park.
June 30—Excelsior, at Royal-park.
July 7—Essendon, at Jolimont.
July 14—Hawthorn, at Jolimont.
July 21—Geelong, at Geelong.
July 28—Hotham United, at Royal-park.
Aug. 4—Star of Richmond, at Jolimont.
Aug. 11—North Fitzroy, at Fitzroy.
Aug. 18—Hotham United, at Jolimont.
Aug. 25—Hawthorn, at Hawthorn.
Sept. 1—Northcote, at Jolimont.
Sept. 8—Williamstown, at Jolimont.
Sept. 15—Geelong, at Jolimont.
Sept. 22—West Melbourne, at Jolimont.
Sept. 29—Star of Richmond, at Richmond.

BRUNSWICK.

May 19—Coburg, at Coburg.
June 2—Hotham-hill, at Brunswick.
June 9—Albert, at Fawkner-park.
June 23—Hotham second twenty, at Brunswick.
June 30—Hotham United, at Brunswick.
July 7—Coburg, at Brunswick.
July 14—Hotham second twenty, at Hotham.
July 21—Alberts, at Brunswick.
July 28—North Fitzroy, at Brunswick
Aug. 4—Hotham second twenty, at Hotham.
Aug. 11—Coburg, at Brunswick.
Aug. 18—Adelphian, at Royal-park.
Aug. 25—Warwick, at Richmond-paddock.
Sept. 1—North Fitzroy, at Fitzroy.
Sept. 8—Hotham-hill, at Royal-park.
Sept. 15—Warwick, at Brunswick.
Oct. 6—Adelphian, at Brunswick.

ESPLANADE, ST. KILDA.

May 19—Hawthorn Second Twenty, at St. Kilda.
May 24—Dandenong, at Dandenong.
May 26—Essendon Second Twenty, at St. Kilda.
June 2—Warwick, at Richmond.
June 9—Balaclava, at St. Kilda.
June 16—Hotham United Second Twenty, at Royal-park.
June 23—Coast, at St. Kilda.
June 30—Essendon Second Twenty, at Essendon.
July 7—Toorak, at Toorak.
July 14—Northcote, at St. Kilda.
July 21—St. Kilda Second Twenty, at St. Kilda.
July 28—East St. Kilda, at St. Kilda.

Continued …

Aug. 18—Bellevue, at Royal-park.
Aug. 25—East St. Kilda, at St. Kilda.
Sept. 1—St. Kilda Second Twenty, at St. Kilda.
Sept. 11—Toorak, at St. Kilda.
Sept. 29—Hotham United, at St. Kilda.
Oct. 6—Northcote, at Northcote.
Oct. 13—Young Victorians, at Albert-park.

BALACLAVA CLUB.

May 19—Abbotsford, at Windsor.
May 24—Hawthorn Second Twenty, at Hawthorn.
May 26—Toorak, at Windsor.
June 2—Albert, at Windsor.
June 9—Esplanade, at Esplanade.
June 16—South Yarra Standard, at Fawkner-park.
June 23—East St. Kilda, at Windsor.
July 7—Sands and M'Dougall's, at Windsor.
July 14—Fawkner, at Windsor.
July 21—Young Victorians, at Albert-park.
July 28—Toorak, at Toorak.
Aug. 4—East St. Kilda, at East St. Kilda.
Aug. 25—South Yarra Standard, at Windsor.
Sept. 1—Fawkner, at Fawkner-park.
Sept. 8—Young Victorians, at Windsor.
Sept. 15—Albert, at Fawkner-park.
Sept. 22—Esplanade, at Windsor.
Sept. 29—Hawthorn Second Twenty, at Windsor.

ADELPHIAN CLUB.

May 13—Victoria United, at Royal park.
May 26—West of England, at Clifton-hill.
June 2—North Carlton, at Royal-park.
June 9—Darling United, at Royal park.
June 16—Star of Richmond, at Royal-park.
June 23—Bellevue, at Royal-park.
June 30—North Carlton, at North Carlton.
July 7—Albert, at Royal-park.
July 14—North Fitzroy, at Royal-park.
July 21—Star of Richmond, at Richmond.
July 28—West of England, at Royal-park.
Aug. 4—Bellevue, at Royal-park.
Aug. 11—Albert, at Fawkner-park.
Aug. 18—Brunswick, at Royal-park.
Aug. 25—Darling United, at York-street, Richmond.
Sept. 1—Star of Richmond, at Royal-park.
Sept. 8—Cosmopolitan, at Royal-park.
Sept. 15—North Fitzroy, at North Fitzroy.
Sept. 22—Bellevue, at Royal-park.
Sept. 29—Warwick, at Richmond paddock.
Oct. 6—Brunswick, at Brunswick.

TOORAK CLUB.

May 24—Northcote, at Croxton-park.
May 10.—Balaclava, at Windsor.
June 2—East St. Kilda, at East St. Kilda.
June 9—St. Kilda second twenty, at Toorak.
June 16—Coast, at Elsternwick.
June 23—Hawthorn second twenty, at Toorak.
June 30—Warwick, at Richmond.
July 7—Esplanade, at Toorak.
July 14—Essendon second twenty, at Toorak.
June 21—University, at Toorak.
July 28—Balaclava, at Toorak.
Aug. 4—Hawthorn, at Hawthorn.
Aug. 11—Coast, at Toorak.
Aug. 18—Warwick, at Toorak.
Aug. 25—Northcote, at Toorak.
Sept. 1—Essendon second twenty, at Essendon.
Sept. 8—East St. Kilda, at Toorak.
Sept. 15—Esplanade, at St. Kilda.
Sept. 29—Keilor, at Essendon.

Continued …

On Saturday, August 25, 1877 Hotham faced Carlton at their reserve ground on Madeline Street, which now part of Swanston Street (North) and the Melbourne University.[239] Carlton were victors. Named in the game report for Hotham were their players, Ryan, Gardiner, Traynor, Robertson, Tracey and Grainger:[240]

CARLTON V. HOTHAM.

The second meeting of these clubs took place on Saturday on the Carlton Reserve. Carlton was represented by a very strong team, amongst whom Donovan, the old captain of the club, was noticeable, whilst Hotham had two or three of its best men away. Hotham won the toss and determined to kick towards the southern goal, having the advantage of a very slight wind. The kick off served Carlton well, for almost directly they had the ball at the Hotham end, which, however, was well defended. For a while the play was chiefly about the centre of the ground, which apparently was rather slippery from the previous night's rain, for the efforts of both teams were of a scrambling nature. Every now and then the ball would be impelled Hothamwards, where both Bracken and Smith had comparatively easy chances for goal. Then a good rush by Hotham took the ball the length of the ground, and Ryan getting a mark fully forty yards off, scored the first goal of the day from a fine place kick. This roused Carlton, and shortly after the recommencement of hostilities Donovan made a grand rush nearly the length of the ground, finishing up by sending the ball right into the arms of the goalkeeper. From this till half-time the play was all in favor of Carlton, which had in the persons of Murphy, Smith and Bracken various chances for goal, but unavailingly. Hotham made one good effort, in which some of the best play of the day was shown. Gardiner marked the ball splendidly in the centre of the ground, kicked to Traynor well forward, who also made a fine mark, and the latter then sent it right into goal, where, if the Hotham sneaks had been lively, a goal would probably have resulted. The ball was kept round the end for a few minutes, and Sutcliffe got a free kick only fifteen yards off, for a breach of the rules, but carefully grubbed the ball. This danger past, Carlton got the ball back again, and Robertson made a rattling shot for goal from fully fifty yards, going close up. Half-time was now called, and a "hatfull of goals for Carlton," says a sympathising bystander. The prediction was pretty correct, for from this out Carlton had quite its own way; and, besides having various chances, which were not productive, scored three goals from place kicks. The first was obtained by Bracken, from about forty yards. The same player then had a much easier chance, but kicked at right angles to the goal, where Kelly succeeded in marking the ball, and putting No. 2 to the credit of Carlton.

Bracken also got the third goal from a little mark only twenty yards off. Carlton thus won by three goals to one. For Carlton Gunn, Bracken, M'Michael, Gow, M'Gill, Donovan and Murphy were noticeable by their exertions, the first-named especially distinguishing himself; whilst for Hotham Gardiner, Traynor, Robertson, Tracy and Grainger did their utmost to stem the tide of disaster. It should be noted that with the exception of the time they obtained the goal, Hotham did not once get the ball behind the Carlton end, whereas Carlton scored a dozen or fifteen behinds. Mr. J. Healy acted as central umpire. There were about 4000 people present.

[239] Sometimes referred to as "University Paddock," Madeline Street North Melbourne and perhaps probably first named University paddock prior to Carlton getting its own post office in 1863.
[240] CARLTON V. HOTHAM, Leader, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 25th August 1877, Page 13.

Two weeks later, on Saturday the 8th September 1877, Hotham Football Club showed it was to be a force to be reckoned with, defeating the Melbourne Football Club convincingly in front of a crowd of 7000 spectators at the MCG. Named to be among North's (Hotham) better player were: Boon, Slatter, Green, Smith, A. Sutcliffe, Traynor, Fuhrhop , Lacey, Gardiner, Dillon, and Knowles for th e second-20 matched was the only Hotham player named against West Melbourne Football Club that same day: [241]

SATURDAY'S SPORTS.

FOOTBALL.

The fine weather of last Saturday, and the interest in the football contest between the Melbourne and Hotham clubs, were sufficient to draw a crowd of about 7,000 persons to the metropolitan ground in Yarra-park to witness the match. On the last occasion this season when the same clubs met, the Melbournites, who for some years past have been invincible to any colonial club excepting the Carlton, were very easily defeated by the Hotham players, who must now be regarded as almost, if not quite, on a par with those of the Melbourne and Carlton clubs. Although the defeat referred to was well known, it was also within the knowledge of those who take an interest in football that the Melbourne team have towards the latter end of the season considerably improved on the form they displayed in the earlier part of it, and that they may now be regarded as having recovered the position they so well maintained in years past. At the commencement of the game on Saturday the different sides were about equal favourites, the result being regarded as a very open one. Sillett, the Melbourne captain, who won the toss, elected to kick towards the eastern or Richmond end, the wind being slightly in favour of his adopting that course. The ball had not been started more than two minutes before Hotham rushed it to the Melbourne end, where one of them soon had a chance for goal through obtaining a mark, but the attempt was unsuccessful. The play was extremely good for some time afterwards, though it was too rough, and the exertions made by both teams showed that they were terribly in earnest. After about five minutes had elapsed the Melbourne men took the ball to their opponents' end, but Slatter, who got hold of it, made a splendid charge down the top side of the ground, and sent it back again three-parts of the way to the Melbourne goal. It was, however, soon returned by Melbourne towards the Hotham goal, and again Slatter got hold of it, and by one of the nicest displays of running and dodging ever seen carried it right across the ground through the combatants, amid the loud cheers of the spectators. The play of Hotham for the first half-hour was magnificent, and conveyed the impression that they were decidedly the best team. They were frequently applauded for their skill and activity, the mode in which they manœuvred the ball out of a scrimmage and carried it off towards the Melbourne end whenever it had got towards the Hotham goal being especially remarkable. They were, however, too fond of fingering the ball when it was in the midst of a scrimmage, and Green, one of their men, paid dearly for that kind of play, as his fingers were kicked and injured so severely that he had to retire during the course of the afternoon. When the game had been on for about half an hour C. Baker, of Melbourne, obtained a mark about 50 yards in front of goal, and, from a place kick, sent the ball clean through the posts, thus obtaining first score for Melbourne. From that time out the local team were more of a match for the visitors than they had been previously, and showed better lasting power, but the sides were still so evenly matched that it was considered anybody's game. Hotham got the ball towards the Melbourne end directly after the goal referred to was obtained, and Smith, of Hotham, had a nice opportunity of scoring from a mark he obtained near the goal. He, however, failed, and the local players rushed the ball towards the Hotham end, but A. Sutcliffe, who was stationed near goal, and was exceedingly active throughout the afternoon, stopped it, and by a nice run carried it back again towards the middle of the ground. The Hotham players showed to great advantage during the match by the clever manner in which they gave each other marks, and the way they played to each other. They also had a smart knack when a heavy scrimmage occurred, and even when only three or four players were together, of slipping the ball behind their legs to a comrade, who in most instances took it cleverly, and rushed off with it in the direction he wanted it to go. F. Baker had several chances to make goal for Melbourne when the play had been on about three-quarters of an hour, but none of them were easy, and none of the attempts made were successful. The play of Hotham still appeared to be the best, and Traynor, Fuhrhop, Lacey, Gardiner, A. Sutcliffe, and Slatter, as well as other men on their side, frequently elicited applause, but they were unfortunate, and Melbourne soon had another goal to their credit. Booth, of Melbourne, who is evidently one of the best footballers out this season, made a mark cleverly about the centre of the ground, and by a good kick drove the ball up towards the Hotham goal. It was sent back a little, and then as quickly taken forward towards the side of the goal, where C. Baker played splendidly for the possession of it against two Hothamites, got it from them, and by a nice side kick, some 10 yards from goal, scored number two for his club before half-time was called. Directly afterwards Bennie, whom everybody was glad to see back again in the field, had a long chance at goal, and kicked the ball well between the posts, but the goal-keeper stopped it, and so prevented the third success for Melbourne. Half time then arrived, and when the rest was over and play resumed, the same earnestness was displayed as in the first part of the game. During the latter half, however, the Melbournites showed the best form, but that they were not much superior to their opponents was evidenced by the fact that no more goals were obtained. Moffatt, of Melbourne, displayed excellent marking capabilities. Booth, Sillett, Bennie, Sherrard, Houston, and Lamrock were as active and efficient as it was possible to be, and so were many of the Hotham players. Dillon, of Hotham, had two good chances for goal, but he kicked badly for both and missed them, and the match was eventually closed in favour of Melbourne by two goals to none for Hotham. The play was as rough in the latter half of the game as in the first, and Melbourne lost two of their men towards the close of the afternoon. Anthony

Continued …

[241] SATURDAY'S SPORTS, FOOTBALL, MELBOURNE V HOTHAM, The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria, Monday 10th September 1877, Page 6.

had to be carried off the ground with the small bone of his leg broken, just above the ankle, and Webb was obliged to retire in consequence of receiving a severe wound to the eye in a collision. A fortnight before, on the same ground, Johnson, of Melbourne, had his collar-bone broken, and only on Friday last, in a game amongst the University students, one of the players had his knee put out. So many accidents should lead footballers to consider whether the rules of the game cannot be further altered, so as to stop the rough and dangerous playing which generally prevails. In the match on Saturday afternoon Mr. T. Power, a good judge of the game, acted as central umpire, and the roughness was no fault of his, as he impartially inflicted the usual penalties for breaches of the rules, but no central umpire can prevent serious accidents if the play is continued as it is now carried on.

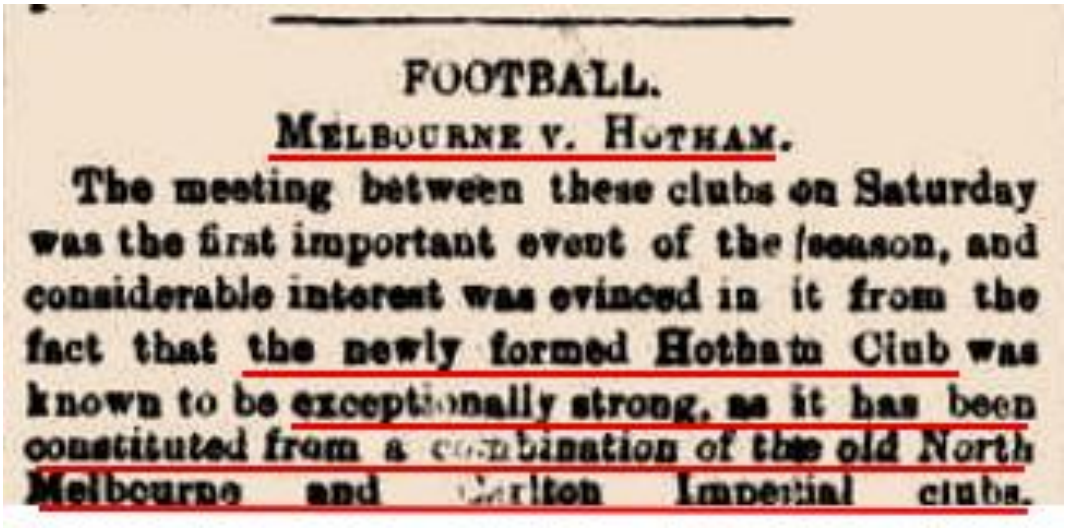
CAMPERDOWN AND COLAC COMBINED V. GEELONG FIRST TWENTY.—In a match between the Geelong First Twenty and a combined team from Colac and Camperdown, played at Geelong on Saturday last, the former won easily, kicking 11 goals, whilst their opponents did not secure one. Morrison captained the visitors, and Down the local team.

ESSENDON V. NORTHCOTE.—This match resulted in an easy victory for the former, who scored four goals to their opponents' nil. The Essendon had numerous other chances for goal besides those obtained, whilst the ball was not once behind their own posts. James Miller and Amess greatly distinguished themselves for Essendon, and Wynne, Swanson, and Walker played well for Northcote.

A match took place in the Royal-park on Saturday between the Hotham United and West Melbourne clubs, the two leading junior football clubs in Melbourne, and after a flukey game it resulted in a victory for the West Melbourne, who got one goal (by Barnes), the kick being fully 60 yards. The game need hardly be described further than saying this was the only chance the West Melbourne had. The Hotham United from the beginning had far and away the best of the play all through, they having shot after shot at the goal, but luck was dead against them. A goal was kicked for them by Knowles as most of the spectators and players thought, but the umpire gave it against them. The West Melbourne had the ball only three times behind their opponents' goal twice in the first half (including the goal), whilst the Hotham United had it no less than 20 times behind the West Melbourne goal.

The following football matches were also played on Saturday afternoon, with the results stated :—Richmond Standard v. South Yarra Standard, won by the latter by three goals to two ; Toorak v. East St. Kilda, won by former by three goals, kicked by Springthorpe, M'Lellan, and Munro, to none by the latter ; Excelsior v. Victorian Railways, won by former with five goals to none ; Esplanade v. South Yarra, won by former with two goals, kicked by Cordner and Lynott, to none by South Yarra.

Peter Pindar in the Australasian on May 12th 1877 reported the impending arrival the Victorian Football Association, which aimed to organise and elevate the game and its clubs. Representatives from interested clubs agreed on the VFA draft, by-laws, and playing rules. [242] Then on Saturday, June 2, 1877, The Age informed its readers that the Hotham played Melbourne at the MCG. In the same article submitted below, the Age football writer acknowledged Hotham was the former old North Melbourne club, which had merged with the Carlton Imperial earlier that year by way of a friendly agreement during the North Melbourne Football Club's 1877 Annual General Meeting (AGM): [243]



FOOTBALL.

MELBOURNE V. HOTHAM.

The meeting between these clubs on Saturday was the first important event of the season, and considerable interest was evinced in it from the fact that the newly formed Hotham Club was known to be exceptionally strong, as it has been constituted from a combination of the old North Melbourne and Carlton Imperial clubs.

Receiving the new VFA competition in all of its glory was the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) pictured below in 1877:

The Melbourne Cricket Ground in 1878, photographed by Charles Nettleton. (Public domain image)

[242] ATHLETIC SPORTS, The Australasian, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 12th May 1877, Page 12.
[243] FOOTBALL, MELBOURNE v HOTHAM, The Age, Melbourne, Victoria, Monday 4th June 1877, Page 3.

The Melbourne Cricket Club, which manages the Melbourne Cricket Ground, swiftly took action to arrange additional games for the North Melbourne Football Club through an agreement made with Mr. John McIndoe, representing his club, North Melbourne: [244]

In June 1877, Melbourne used the MCG for a match against its traditional rival Carlton. Following the success of that game - and the profits generated - football appeared on the Ground on a more regular basis. Melbourne had five matches on the Ground in 1878, while Carlton played Hotham there in June, then used the Ground for return fixtures (under Rugby and Victorian rules) against the Waratahs, whom they had played in Sydney the previous year. In the 1879 season, the Melbourne Cricket Ground was used for football on an almost weekly basis. The MCC had written to the Carlton, Hotham, Melbourne and Geelong clubs offering the Ground for football matches until August. Club Minutes show that when Melbourne applied for twelve Saturdays, the remaining days were offered to Hotham. In August, two night matches were played, the first between the East Melbourne Artillery and Collingwood Rifles and another between Melbourne and Carlton.

The pioneering era of football on the Melbourne Cricket Ground was well and truly over.

[244] Ibid, Batchelder, A, 2002, p25.

1878

In 1949, former 1878 North Melbourne ruckman the then 93-year-old Charlie Warner was visited by 1849 club Captain, Lez Foote, In the short article Charlie explains in 1878 the old North was known as Hotham United: [245]

COUNTRY FORECAST: Warmer weekend. (See Page 41.)

The Argus

MELBOURNE, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1949 — 44 PAGES — PRICE 3d.

RUCKMAN OF THE PAST!

NEW PETROL RATION "MUST BE SMALLER"

MOTORISTS are almost certain to receive less petrol under State rationing than they did before controls were lifted last June.

A Minister said yesterday it was obvious that the ration would have to be smaller.

The car will be at least 33⅓ on the previous ration.

Three suggestions

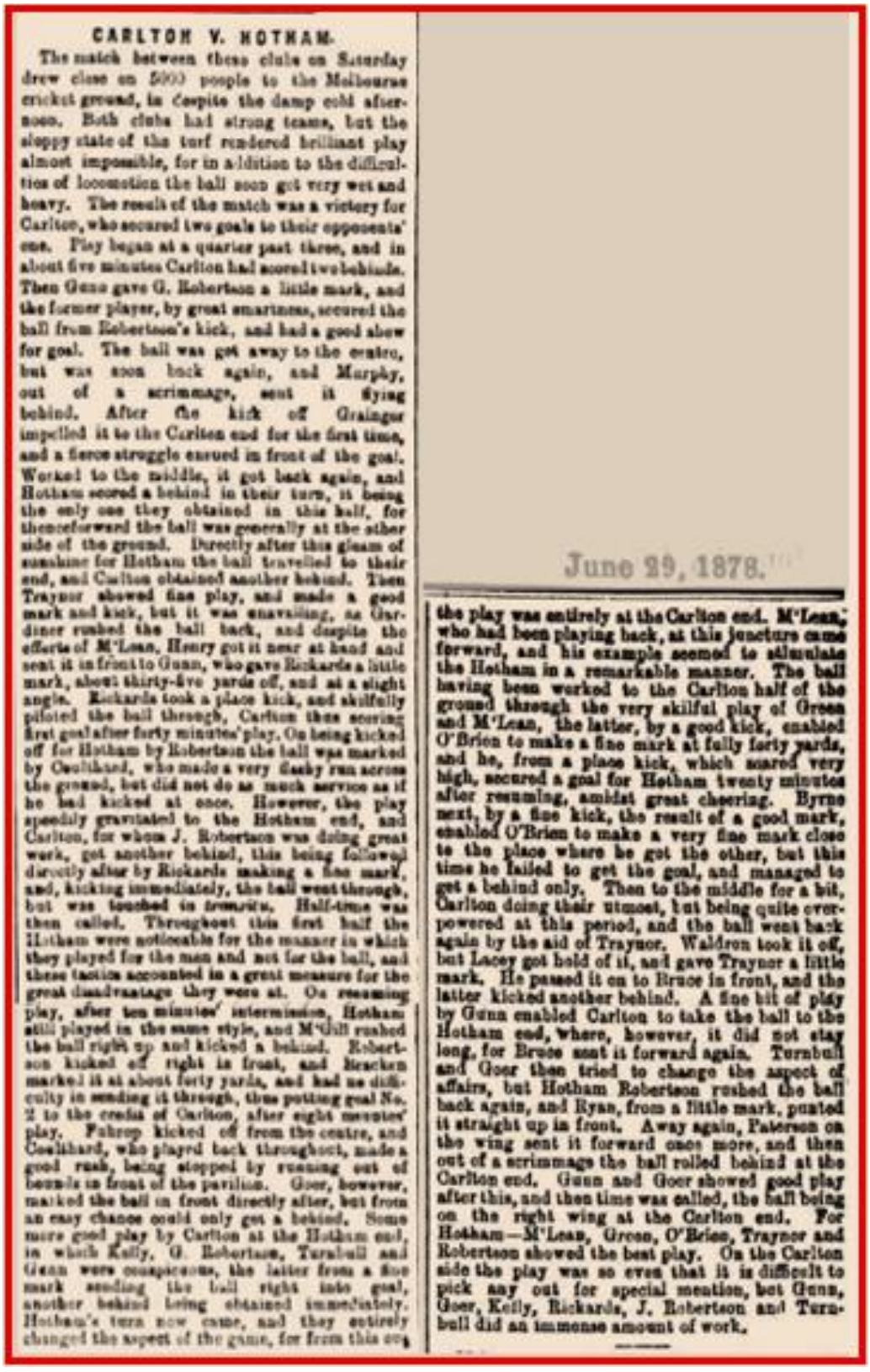
Hollway thre

Price increases

"THAT WAS ME IN 1878," said Mr Charlie Warner, of Essendon (above), as he pointed to a picture of himself taken when he was a ruckman for the Hotham United football club which later became the North Melbourne Football Club. Mr Warner's name was the first appearing on the North Melbourne team sheet for the Essendon match on the Essendon field today. Below is a picture of Mr Warner [illegible]

[245] "RUCKMAN OF THE PAST! THAT WAS ME IN 1878" Interview with Mr. Charlie Warner, The Argus, Melbourne Victoria, Saturday, September 17th 1849, Page 1.

On Saturday July 29th 1878 at the MCG North Melbourne come Hotham, was Hotham United v Carlton attracted a crowd of 5000 spectators. Taking to the field for North that day named among the best in the article below were players: Grainger; Traynor; Waldron; O'Brien; Byrne; Green; McLean and Bruce: [246]



CARLTON V. HOTHAM.

The match between these clubs on Saturday drew close on 5000 people to the Melbourne cricket ground, in despite the damp cold afternoon. Both clubs had strong teams, but the sloppy state of the turf rendered brilliant play almost impossible, for in addition to the difficulties of locomotion the ball soon got very wet and heavy. The result of the match was a victory for Carlton, who secured two goals to their opponents' one. Play began at a quarter past three, and in about five minutes Carlton had scored two behinds. Then Gunn gave G. Robertson a little mark, and the former player, by great smartness, secured the ball from Robertson's kick, and had a good show for goal. The ball was got away to the centre, but was soon back again, and Murphy, out of a scrimmage, sent it flying behind. After the kick off Grainger impelled it to the Carlton end for the first time, and a fierce struggle ensued in front of the goal. Worked to the middle, it got back again, and Hotham scored a behind in their turn, it being the only one they obtained in this half, for thenceforward the ball was generally at the other side of the ground. Directly after this gleam of sunshine for Hotham the ball travelled to their end, and Carlton obtained another behind. Then Traynor showed fine play, and made a good mark and kick, but it was enavailing, as Gardiner rushed the ball back, and despite the efforts of M'Lean, Henry got it near at hand and sent it in front to Gunn, who gave Rickards a little mark, about thirty-five yards off, and at a slight angle. Rickards took a place kick, and skilfully piloted the ball through, Carlton thus scoring first goal after forty minutes' play. On being kicked off for Hotham by Robertson the ball was marked by Coulthard, who made a very flashy run across the ground, but did not do as much service as if he had kicked at once. However, the play speedily gravitated to the Hotham end, and Carlton, for whom J. Robertson was doing great work, got another behind, this being followed directly after by Rickards making a fine mark, and, kicking immediately, the ball went through, but was touched in transitu. Half-time was then called. Throughout this first half the Hotham were noticeable for the manner in which they played for the man and not for the ball, and these tactics accounted in a great measure for the great disadvantage they were at. On resuming play, after ten minutes' intermission, Hotham still played in the same style, and M'Gill rushed the ball right up and kicked a behind. Robertson kicked off right in front, and Bracken marked it at about forty yards, and had no difficulty in sending it through, thus putting goal No. 2 to the credit of Carlton, after eight minutes' play. Fahrop kicked off from the centre, and Coulthard, who played back throughout, made a good rush, being stopped by running out of bounds in front of the pavilion. Goer, however, marked the ball in front directly after, but from an easy chance could only get a behind. Some more good play by Carlton at the Hotham end, in which Kelly, G. Robertson, Turnbull and Gunn were conspicuous, the latter from a fine mark sending the ball right into goal, another behind being obtained immediately. Hotham's turn now came, and they entirely changed the aspect of the game, for from this on

June 29, 1878.

the play was entirely at the Carlton end. M'Lean, who had been playing back, at this juncture came forward, and his example seemed to stimulate the Hotham in a remarkable manner. The ball having been worked to the Carlton half of the ground through the very skilful play of Green and M'Lean, the latter, by a good kick, enabled O'Brien to make a fine mark at fully forty yards, and he, from a place kick, which soared very high, secured a goal for Hotham twenty minutes after resuming, amidst great cheering. Byrne next, by a fine kick, the result of a good mark, enabled O'Brien to make a very fine mark close to the place where he got the other, but this time he failed to get the goal, and managed to get a behind only. Then to the middle for a bit, Carlton doing their utmost, but being quite overpowered at this period, and the ball went back again by the aid of Traynor. Waldron took it off, but Lacey got hold of it, and gave Traynor a little mark. He passed it on to Bruce in front, and the latter kicked another behind. A fine bit of play by Gunn enabled Carlton to take the ball to the Hotham end, where, however, it did not stay long, for Bruce sent it forward again. Turnbull and Goer then tried to change the aspect of affairs, but Hotham Robertson rushed the ball back again, and Ryan, from a little mark, punted it straight up in front. Away again, Paterson on the wing sent it forward once more, and then out of a scrimmage the ball rolled behind at the Carlton end. Gunn and Goer showed good play after this, and then time was called, the ball being on the right wing at the Carlton end. For Hotham—M'Lean, Green, O'Brien, Traynor and Robertson showed the best play. On the Carlton side the play was so even that it is difficult to pick any out for special mention, but Gunn, Goer, Kelly, Rickards, J. Robertson and Turnbull did an immense amount of work.

[246] CARLTON V. HOTHAM, Leader, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 29th June 1878, Page 12.

1879

North's football club branch is granted legal control over the cricket club – all rights

The year 1879 marked a legal ruling made by Sir Isaac Isaacs GCB, GCMG, PC, KC (1855-1948), which granted the North Melbourne Football Club control over the club founded prior to November 22, 1855, by F.T. Gell.[247] From that point onward, the football assumed all rights previously held by the cricket division, including financial and other responsibilities and obligations, as well as the assets of the entire club, including the leasehold of the Arden Street Oval and its subsequent improvements. The Argus reported Sir Isaac's 1879 ruling on July 29, 1936, in this manner:[248]

"North Melbourne [football club] rights date back to 1879. Particularly interesting in view of the fact that it is now involved in the dispute is a document which the North Melbourne Football Club has unearthed giving it control of the ground. This was signed in 1879 by the secretary of the North Melbourne (then Hotham) Cricket Club. The document has been in possession of Alderman J. H. Gardener who at the time of its signature was treasurer of the North Melbourne (then also Hotham) Football Club and is a receipt acknowledging ***the payment by the football club of the cricket club's debts amounting to £83. In consideration of which the cricket club ceded to the football club all its right title and interest in the ground. The payment was made by the football club Alderman Gardener said to prevent the Government stepping in and taking control of the ground.*** *However, the matter did not end there for the cricket club tried to go back on its bargain and the matter was brought to court when* ***the football club was awarded £150 damages because the cricket club refused to allow it to hold a cycling meeting there. The case was decided by Sir Isaac Isaacs.*** *The title to the ground Alderman Gardener says is now held by the Melbourne City Council which obtained it from the then operating North Melbourne Council when it was absorbed."*

NORTH MELBOURNE RIGHTS

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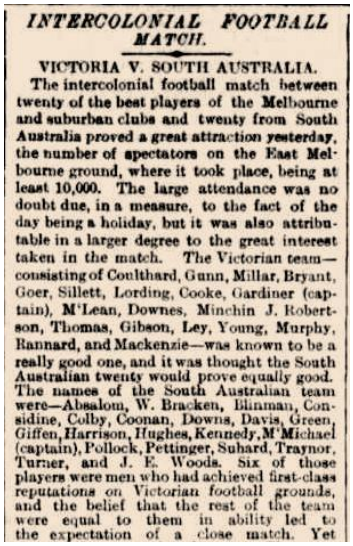
The payment was made by the football club, Alderman Gardener said, to prevent the Government stepping in and taking control of the ground. However, the matter did not end there, for the cricket club tried to go back on its bargain, and the matter was brought to court, when the football club was awarded £150 damages because the cricket club refused to allow it to hold a cycling meeting there. The case was decided by Sir Isaac Isaacs. The title to the ground, Alderman Gardener says, is now held by the Melbourne City Council, which obtained it from the then operating North Melbourne Council when it was absorbed.

[247] Australian Dictionary of Biography: Isaac Alfred Isaacs includes portrait as Chief Justice.
[248] NORTH MELBOURNE FOOTBALL CLUB RIGHTS TO ARDEN STREET OVAL, The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria, Wednesday 29th July 1936, Page 12.

Football season 1879 further saw the first ever interstate match between Victoria and South Australia representative team played. The first of two matches was played on the East Melbourne Ground on Tuesday 1st July 1879. the first-ever intercolonial representative match, game one of two, was held on a public holiday at East Melbourne Cricket Ground.[249] Both games were umpired by James Slight:[250]

That day the Victorian team was represented by the following player: John Gardiner (Captain), Carlton; George Coulthard, Carlton; Paddy Gunn, Carlton; Millar (TBD); Herbert Bryant, Essendon; William Goer, Carlton; Robert Sillett, Melbourne; **Frank Lording, Hotham**; G.V. Cooke (TBD), **Billy McLean, Hotham**; Harry Downes, Melbourne; Minchin (TBD); **Jimmy Robertson, Hotham**; Thomas (TBD); J. Gibson, South Melbourne; **Arthur Ley, Hotham**; Young, South Melbourne; Murphy, Carlton; Rannard, West Melbourne, Mackenzie (TBD).

Being part of interstate football history was **Billy Bracken,** born Templemore, Tipperary, Ireland, [251]ex-Victorian and North Melbourne and Carlton player. He represented South Australia after transferring from Carlton to Norwood before the start of the 1879 season [252]



INTERCOLONIAL FOOTBALL MATCH.

VICTORIA V. SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

The intercolonial football match between twenty of the best players of the Melbourne and suburban clubs and twenty from South Australia proved a great attraction yesterday, the number of spectators on the East Melbourne ground, where it took place, being at least 10,000. The large attendance was no doubt due, in a measure, to the fact of the day being a holiday, but it was also attributable in a larger degree to the great interest taken in the match. The Victorian team—consisting of Coulthard, Gunn, Millar, Bryant, Goer, Sillett, Lording, Cooke, Gardiner (captain), M'Lean, Downes, Minchin J. Robertson, Thomas, Gibson, Ley, Young, Murphy, Rannard, and Mackenzie—was known to be a really good one, and it was thought the South Australian twenty would prove equally good. The names of the South Australian team were—Absalom, W. Bracken, Blinman, Considine, Colby, Coonan, Downs, Davis, Green, Giffen, Harrison, Hughes, Kennedy, M'Michael (captain), Pollock, Pettinger, Suhard, Traynor, Turner, and J. E. Woods. Six of those players were men who had achieved first-class reputations on Victorian football grounds, and the belief that the rest of the team were equal to them in ability led to the expectation of a close match. Yet

[249] Engraving of the first intercolonial Australian football match between Victoria and South Australia, published in the Australasian Sketcher, 1879, State Library of Victoria.

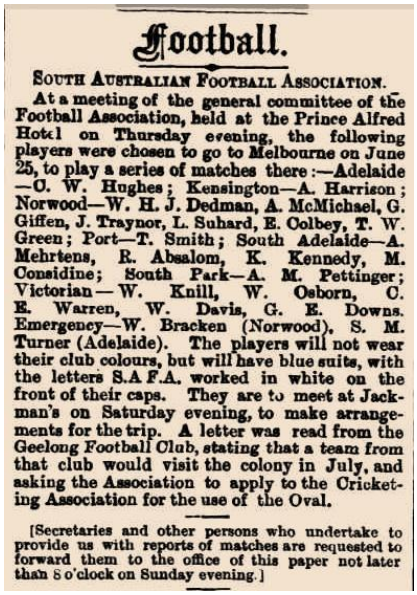
[250] FOOTBALL, South Australia v Victoria, The Age, Melbourne, Victoria, Monday 7th July 1879, Page 3.

[251] Ibid, Guest, John Lindsay Robert FCDA, 2023, Working Paper - Fact Finding: Sports in Templemore & the North Melbourne Club Connection Melbourne Australia.

[252] INTERCOLONIAL FOOTBALL MATCH, The Argus Melbourne, Victoria, Wednesday 2nd July 1879, Page 5.

The first game was umpired according to VFA rules and the second by the rules of the South Australian Association. They only differed in one regard, which was then also considered remarkable, the South Australian rules allowed for slinging (tackling) around the neck and considered by all at the venue for second game to be extremely dangerous.[253]

The final score for the first game was Victoria, represented by the Victorian Football Association, 7.14.56 points to South Australia 0.3.3 points. The match was attended by more than 10,000 people: [254]



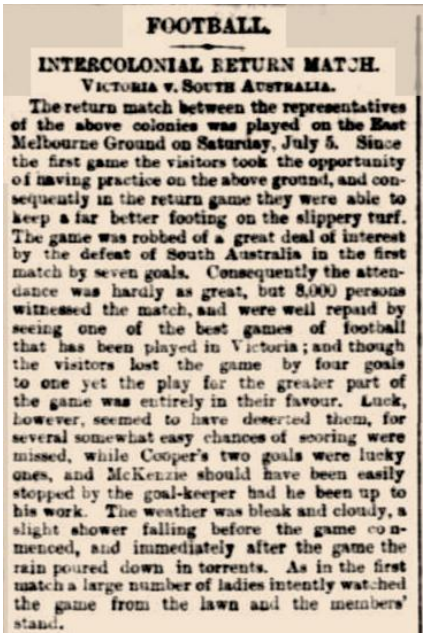
Football.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION.

At a meeting of the general committee of the Football Association, held at the Prince Alfred Hotel on Thursday evening, the following players were chosen to go to Melbourne on June 25, to play a series of matches there:—Adelaide —C. W. Hughes; Kensington—A. Harrison; Norwood—W. H. J. Dedman, A. McMichael, G. Giffen, J. Traynor, L. Suhard, E. Colbey, T. W. Green; Port—T. Smith; South Adelaide—A. Mehrtens, R. Absalom, K. Kennedy, M. Considine; South Park—A. M. Pettinger; Victorian—W. Knill, W. Osborn, C. E. Warren, W. Davis, G. E. Downs. Emergency—W. Bracken (Norwood), S. M. Turner (Adelaide). The players will not wear their club colours, but will have blue suits, with the letters S.A F.A. worked in white on the front of their caps. They are to meet at Jackman's on Saturday evening, to make arrangements for the trip. A letter was read from the Geelong Football Club, stating that a team from that club would visit the colony in July, and asking the Association to apply to the Cricketing Association for the use of the Oval.

[Secretaries and other persons who undertake to provide us with reports of matches are requested to forward them to the office of this paper not later than 8 o'clock on Sunday evening.]

Victoria also defeated South Australia in the return encounter also played on the East Melbourne Cricket Ground on the following Saturday, defeating the visitors, 4 goals to one goal: [255]



FOOTBALL.

INTERCOLONIAL RETURN MATCH.

VICTORIA v. SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

The return match between the representatives of the above colonies was played on the East Melbourne Ground on Saturday, July 5. Since the first game the visitors took the opportunity of having practice on the above ground, and consequently in the return game they were able to keep a far better footing on the slippery turf. The game was robbed of a great deal of interest by the defeat of South Australia in the first match by seven goals. Consequently the attendance was hardly as great, but 8,000 persons witnessed the match, and were well repaid by seeing one of the best games of football that has been played in Victoria; and though the visitors lost the game by four goals to one yet the play for the greater part of the game was entirely in their favour. Luck, however, seemed to have deserted them, for several somewhat easy chances of scoring were missed, while Cooper's two goals were lucky ones, and McKenzie should have been easily stopped by the goal-keeper had he been up to his work. The weather was bleak and cloudy, a slight shower falling before the game commenced, and immediately after the game the rain poured down in torrents. As in the first match a large number of ladies intently watched the game from the lawn and the members' stand.

[253] FOOTBALL, Leader, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 12th July 1879, Page 12.
[254] FOOTBALL, SOUTH AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION, Adelaide Observer, South Australia, Saturday 7th June 1879, Page 5.
[255] FOOTBALL, Victoria v South Australia, South Australian Register, Adelaide, SA, Saturday 12th July 1879, Page 7.

Following on from the historical intercolonial, *come* interstate matches, was scantly account of Hotham's defeat of a gallant junior club, and neighbours, Hotham Hill. The latter club permitted to play 25 players the previous Saturday 12th July 1879. Named for Hotham Football Club was player Nash who kicked the solitary goal: [256]

HOTHAM V. HOTHAM-HILL (25).—The match between these clubs, in the Royal-park, resulted in the defeat of the juniors—who, at times, showed very good play—by one goal, kicked by Nash, to none.

A limited fixture for July 1879 is shown below recognising North's first-20 team called Hotham is scheduled to play West Melbourne FC in Royal Park and the second-20 with the relic name Hotham United to play Clifton [Hill] FC also in Royal Park [mine]: [257]

ATHLETIC SPORTS.

FOOTBALL FIXTURES.

July.

19.—Carlton v. Essendon, at Prince's Oval.
19.—Melbourne v. South Melbourne, at Melbourne.
19.—Albert-park v. Maryborough, at East Melbourne Cricket-ground.
19.—Hotham v. West Melbourne, at Royal-park.
19.—St. Kilda v. Williamstown, at St. Kilda.
19.—East Melbourne v. Hawthorn, at Hawthorn.
19.—East St. Kilda v. Northcote, at Albert-park.
19.—Hotham United v. Clifton, at Royal-park.
19.—Sandridge v. Carlton United, at Sandridge.

The Sunbury News article published on Saturday, June 25, 1892, contained a treasure trove of information about the Sunbury Football Club's activities, highlighted by an intriguing article that will surely captivate fans of Australian rules football history. This article may be notable for presenting one of the earliest depictions of team field position, akin to modern formats, but played on a rectangular field that was primarily utilised by junior clubs outside the VFA competition, like Sunbury at the time:[258]

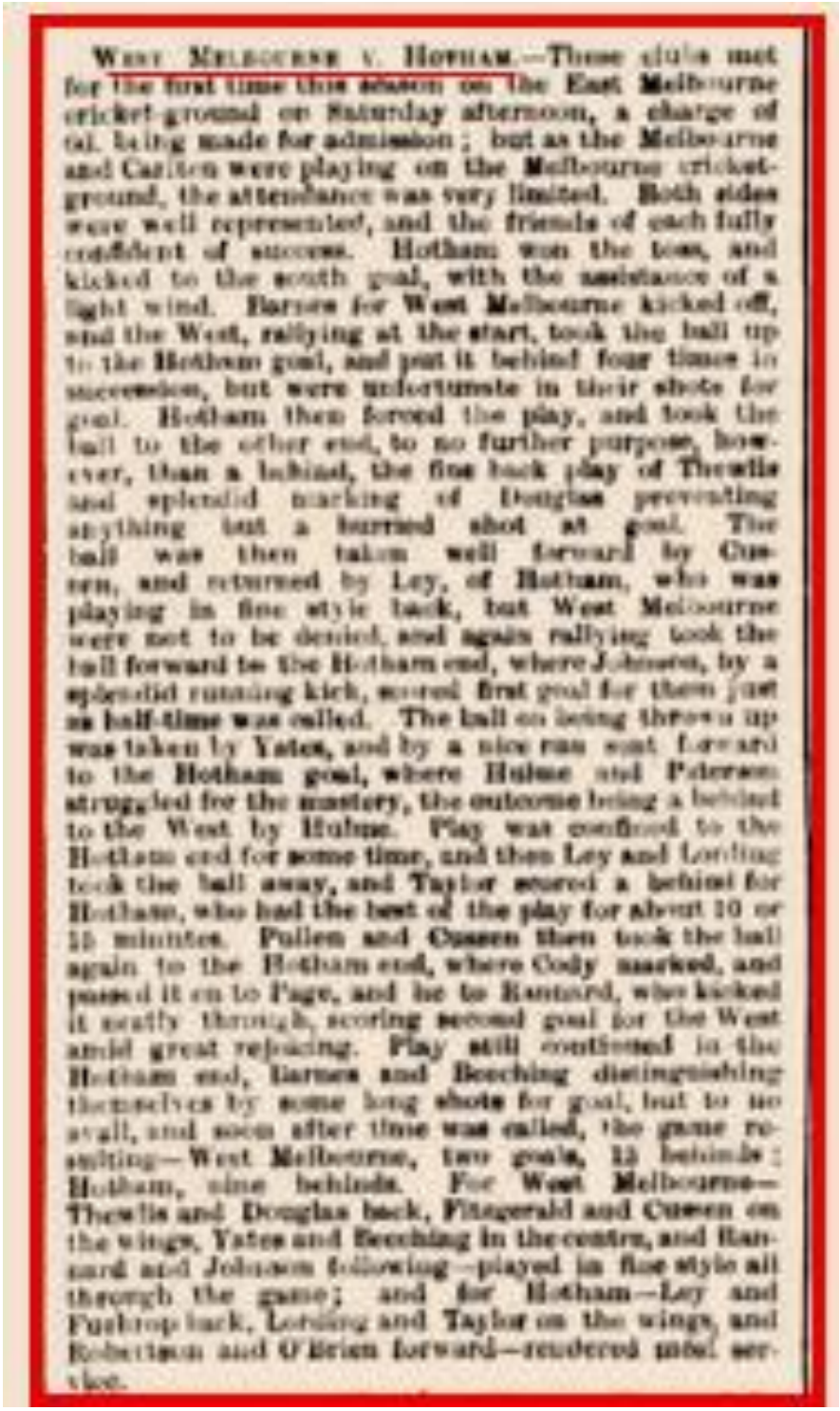
FOOTBALL.

For the convenience of our Football readers, who are not already acquainted with the playing ground, we show below a DIAGRAM of the field and position of the men.

Breadth—100 yds. minimum., 150 yds maximum.; Length, 150 yds. minimum., 200 yds. maximum. The Goal Line is 10 yds. in front of Goal, and is drawn at right angles with the behind posts.

[256] FOOTBALL GOSSIP, by Peter Pindar, The Australasian, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 19th July 1879, Page 12.
[257] The Australasian, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 19th July 1879, Page 12.
[258] FOOTBALL, The Sunbury News, Victoria, Saturday 25th June 1892, Page 3.

On Saturday the 7th June 1879, Hotham took on West Melbourne on the East Melbourne Cricket Ground (EMCG) in front of a relatively small crowd in account of the large crowd witnessing the Carlton v Melbourne clash at the MCG. West Melbourne won by 14 points kicking 2 goals 13 behinds, 25 points to Hotham 0 goals, 9 behinds, 9 points: [259]

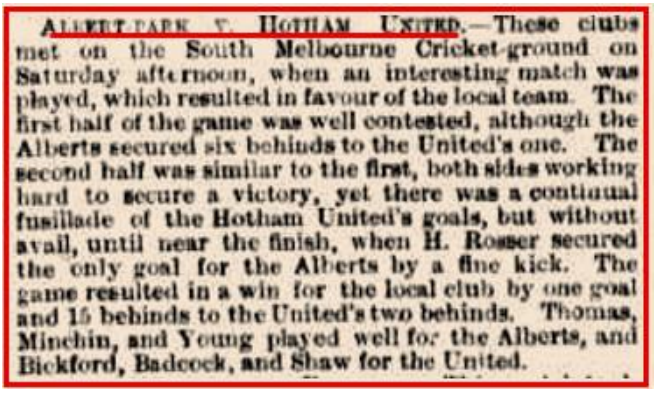


WEST MELBOURNE v. HOTHAM.—These clubs met for the first time this season on the East Melbourne cricket ground on Saturday afternoon, a charge of 6d. being made for admission; but as the Melbourne and Carlton were playing on the Melbourne cricket-ground, the attendance was very limited. Both sides were well represented, and the friends of each fully confident of success. Hotham won the toss, and kicked to the south goal, with the assistance of a light wind. Barnes for West Melbourne kicked off, and the West, rallying at the start, took the ball up to the Hotham goal, and put it behind four times in succession, but were unfortunate in their shots for goal. Hotham then forced the play, and took the ball to the other end, to no further purpose, however, than a behind, the fine back play of Thewlis and splendid marking of Douglas preventing anything but a hurried shot at goal. The ball was then taken well forward by Queen, and returned by Ley, of Hotham, who was playing in fine style back, but West Melbourne were not to be denied, and again rallying took the ball forward to the Hotham end, where Johnson, by a splendid running kick, scored first goal for them just as half-time was called. The ball on being thrown up was taken by Yates, and by a nice run sent forward to the Hotham goal, where Hulme and Paterson struggled for the mastery, the outcome being a behind to the West by Hulme. Play was confined to the Hotham end for some time, and then Ley and Lording took the ball away, and Taylor scored a behind for Hotham, who had the best of the play for about 10 or 15 minutes. Pullen and Queen then took the ball again to the Hotham end, where Cody marked, and passed it on to Page, and he to Rantord, who kicked it neatly through, scoring second goal for the West amid great rejoicing. Play still continued in the Hotham end, Barnes and Beeching distinguishing themselves by some long shots for goal, but to no avail, and soon after time was called, the game resulting—West Melbourne, two goals, 13 behinds; Hotham, nine behinds. For West Melbourne—Thewlis and Douglas back, Fitzgerald and Queen on the wings, Yates and Beeching in the centre, and Ranard and Johnson following—played in fine style all through the game; and for Hotham—Ley and Fuhrhop back, Lording and Taylor on the wings, and Robertson and O'Brien forward—rendered good service.

Listed above as prominent players for Hotham that day were: Ley, Pullen, Fuhrhop, Lording, Taylor, Robertson and O'Brien.

[259] SATURDAY'S SPORTS, West Melbourne d Hotham, The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria, Monday 9th June 1879, Page 3.

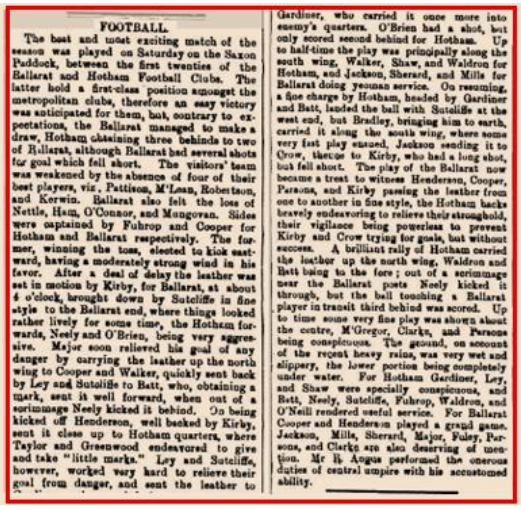
With further evidence of the interchangeable use of Hotham's come North Melbourne names in the first years of the VFA by football writers, the Alberts, also occasionally known as the "Parkies," won in a tight match scoring in the last minutes the only goal of the game but leading by massing many behinds. The final scores were, Albert Park, 1 goal, 15 behinds, 21 points to Hotham United, 0 goals, 2 behinds, 2 points. A comfortable 19-point victory for the Alberts. Named for Hotham were Bickford, Badcock and Shaw. Bickford and Shaw being formed first-20 players and club stalwarts for the North Melbourne Football Club: [260]



ALBERT PARK V. HOTHAM UNITED.—These clubs met on the South Melbourne Cricket-ground on Saturday afternoon, when an interesting match was played, which resulted in favour of the local team. The first half of the game was well contested, although the Alberts secured six behinds to the United's one. The second half was similar to the first, both sides working hard to secure a victory, yet there was a continual fusillade of the Hotham United's goals, but without avail, until near the finish, when H. Rosser secured the only goal for the Alberts by a fine kick. The game resulted in a win for the local club by one goal and 15 behinds to the United's two behinds. Thomas, Minchin, and Young played well for the Alberts, and Bickford, Badcock, and Shaw for the United.

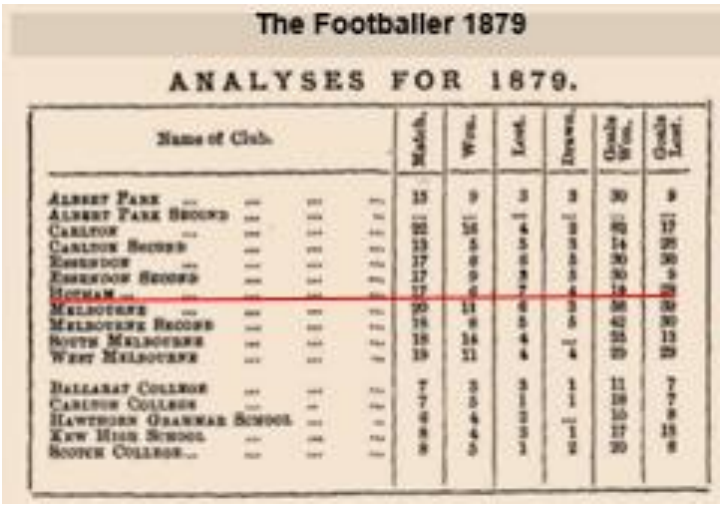
On Saturday, June 26th 1879, Hotham travelled to Ballarat to face the VFA team, the local newspaper acknowledging Hotham as one of the top metropolitan clubs in VFA and noting their easy victory over Ballarat Football Club.

Remarkably, Hotham played without four key players: Pattison, McLean, Robertson, and Kerwin. Henry Fuhrhop, who served as Captain since 1869—except for a brief absence in 1871 when he played for Carlton—returned to lead North again in 1872. He stepped down as captain of North's first-20 side in 1876 when he was one of 12 players who defected but resumed his captaincy with the shinboners in 1877. Other players recognised for strong performances for Hotham included Neely, O, Ley, Sutcliffe, and Butt,[261] Walker, Shaw, Waldron, Gardiner and O'Neill: [262]



FOOTBALL.

The best and most exciting match of the season was played on Saturday on the Saxon Paddock, between the first twenties of the Ballarat and Hotham Football Clubs. The latter hold a first-class position amongst the metropolitan clubs, therefore an easy victory was anticipated for them, but, contrary to expectations, the Ballarat managed to make a draw, Hotham obtaining three behinds to two of Ballarat, although Ballarat had several shots for goal which fell short. The visitors' team was weakened by the absence of four of their best players, viz., Pattison, M'Lean, Robertson, and Kerwin. Ballarat also felt the loss of Nettle, Ham, O'Connor, and Mungovan. Sides were captained by Fuhrop and Cooper for Hotham and Ballarat respectively. The former, winning the toss, elected to kick eastward, having a moderately strong wind in his favor. After a deal of delay the leather was set in motion by Kirby, for Ballarat, at about 4 o'clock, brought down by Sutcliffe in fine style to the Ballarat end, where things looked rather lively for some time, the Hotham forwards, Neely and O'Brien, being very aggressive. Major soon relieved his goal of any danger by carrying the leather up the north wing to Cooper and Walker, quickly sent back by Ley and Sutcliffe to Batt, who, obtaining a mark, sent it well forward, when out of a scrimmage Neely kicked it behind. On being kicked off Henderson, well backed by Kirby, sent it close up to Hotham quarters, where Taylor and Greenwood endeavored to give and take "little marks." Ley and Sutcliffe, however, worked very hard to relieve their goal from danger, and sent the leather to Gardiner, who carried it once more into enemy's quarters. O'Brien had a shot, but only scored second behind for Hotham. Up to half-time the play was principally along the south wing, Walker, Shaw, and Waldron for Hotham, and Jackson, Sherard, and Mills for Ballarat doing yeoman service. On resuming, a fine charge by Hotham, headed by Gardiner and Batt, landed the ball with Sutcliffe at the west end, but Bradley, bringing him to earth, carried it along the south wing, where some very fast play ensued, Jackson sending it to Crow, thence to Kirby, who had a long shot, but fell short. The play of the Ballarat now became a treat to witness Henderson, Cooper, Parsons, and Kirby passing the leather from one to another in fine style, the Hotham backs bravely endeavoring to relieve their stronghold, their vigilance being powerless to prevent Kirby and Crow trying for goals, but without success. A brilliant rally of Hotham carried the leather up the north wing, Waldron and Batt being to the fore; out of a scrimmage near the Ballarat posts Neely kicked it through, but the ball touching a Ballarat player in transit third behind was scored. Up to time some very fine play was shown about the centre, M'Gregor, Clarke, and Parsons being conspicuous. The ground, on account of the recent heavy rains, was very wet and slippery, the lower portion being completely under water. For Hotham Gardiner, Ley, and Shaw were specially conspicuous, and Batt, Neely, Sutcliffe, Fuhrop, Waldron, and O'Neill rendered useful service. For Ballarat Cooper and Henderson played a grand game. Jackson, Mills, Sherard, Major, Fuley, Parsons, and Clarke are also deserving of mention. Mr R. Angus performed the onerous duties of central umpire with his accustomed ability.



The Footballer 1879

ANALYSES FOR 1879.

Name of Club.	Matches.	Won.	Lost.	Drawn.	Goals Won.	Goals Lost.
Albert Park	13	9	3	3	30	9
Albert Park Second	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carlton	12	10	1	1	32	12
Carlton Second	13	5	5	3	14	20
Essendon	17	6	6	5	30	30
Essendon Second	17	9	3	5	30	9
Hotham	17	6	7	4	19	29
Melbourne	20	11	6	3	36	29
Melbourne Second	16	8	5	3	42	30
South Melbourne	18	14	4	—	35	13
West Melbourne	19	11	4	4	29	29
Ballarat College	7	3	3	1	11	7
Carlton College	7	5	1	1	19	7
Hawthorn Grammar School	6	4	2	—	15	8
Kew High School	8	4	3	1	17	15
Scotch College	8	5	1	2	20	8

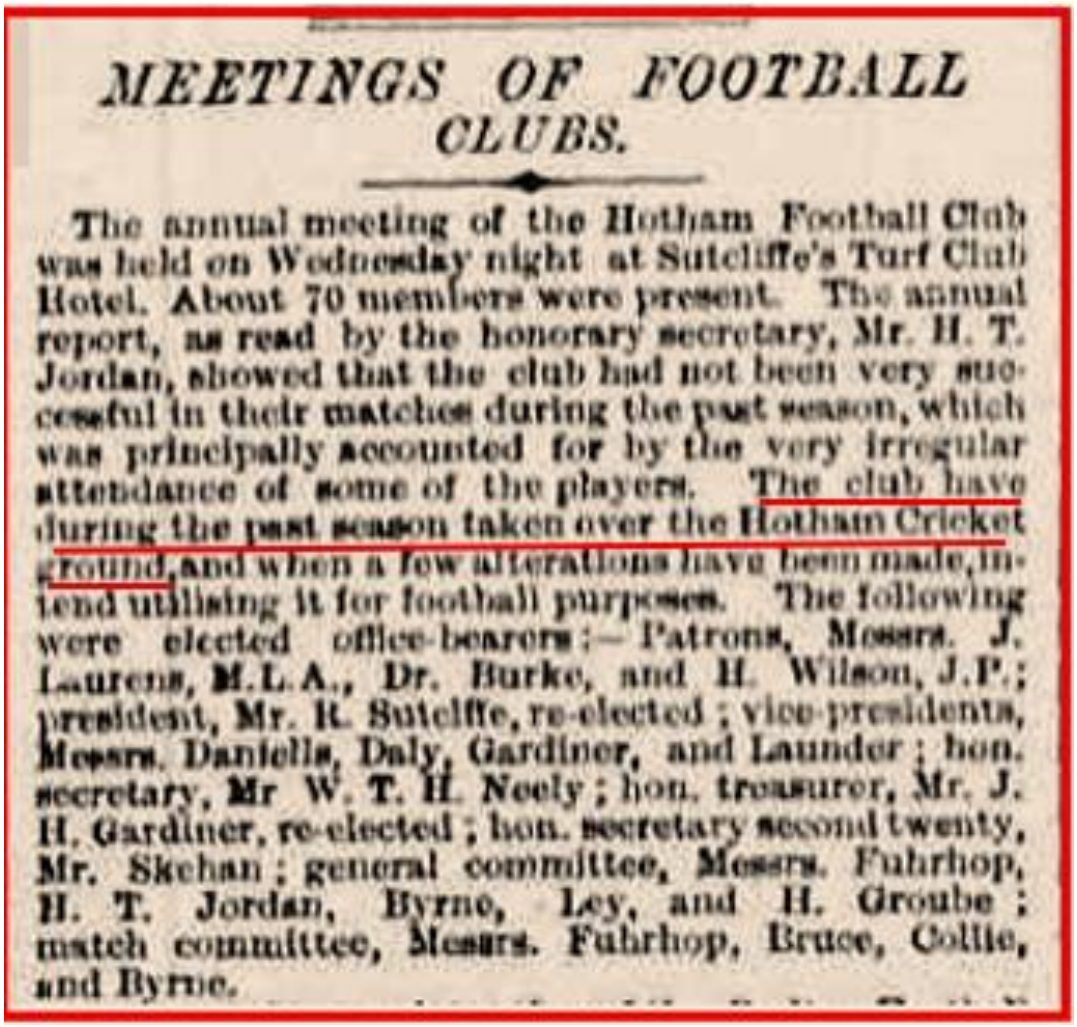
[260] SATURDAY'S SPORTS, Albert Park v Hotham United, The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria, Monday 9th June 1879, Page 3.

[261] Error naming Sam Butt, player "Batt" corrected.

[262] FOOTBALL, The Ballarat Star, Victoria, Monday 28th June 1880, Page 4.

1880

In 1880, H.T. Jordan held the position of secretary of the Melbourne Football Club. He either resigned after reading out the annual report or subsequent lost an election to Mr. W.T.H. Neely, who then took over as the club secretary for the 1880 season. Additionally, the article states that in 1879, the football club officially acquired the Hotham Cricket Ground and planned to repurpose it for football after making some: [263]



MEETINGS OF FOOTBALL CLUBS.

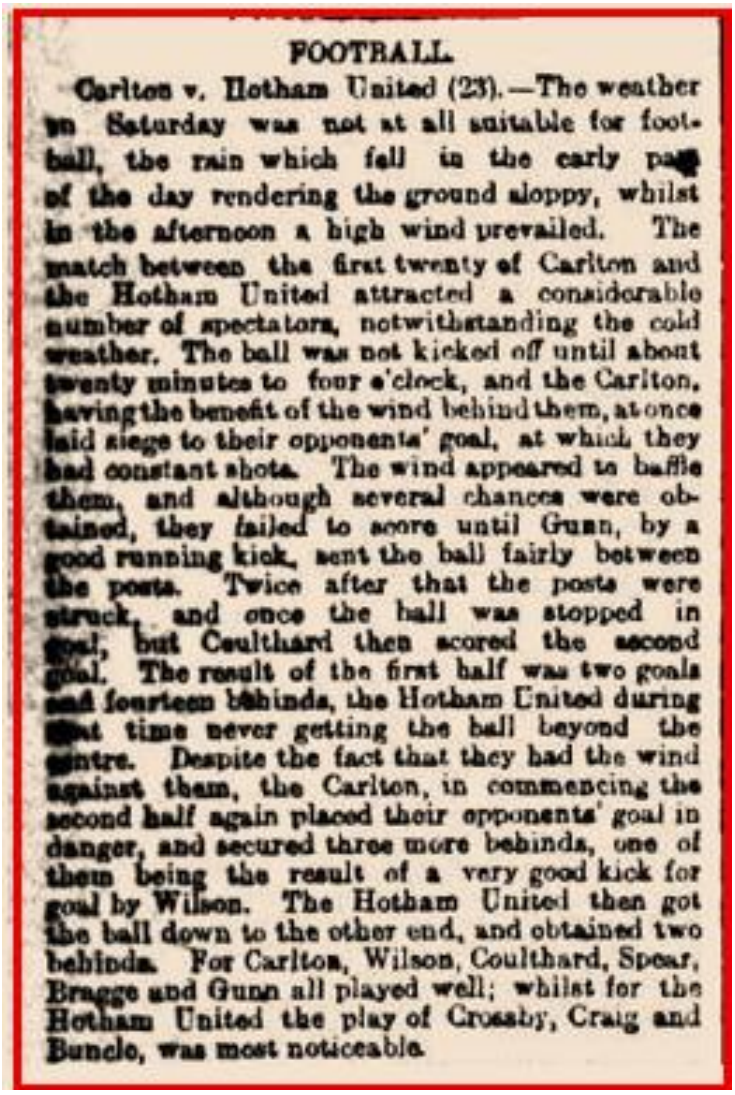
The annual meeting of the Hotham Football Club was held on Wednesday night at Sutcliffe's Turf Club Hotel. About 70 members were present. The annual report, as read by the honorary secretary, Mr. H. T. Jordan, showed that the club had not been very successful in their matches during the past season, which was principally accounted for by the very irregular attendance of some of the players. The club have during the past season taken over the Hotham Cricket ground, and when a few alterations have been made, intend utilising it for football purposes. The following were elected office-bearers:—Patrons, Messrs. J. Laurens, M.L.A., Dr. Burke, and H. Wilson, J.P.; president, Mr. R. Sutcliffe, re-elected; vice-presidents, Messrs. Daniells, Daly, Gardiner, and Launder; hon. secretary, Mr W. T. H. Neely; hon. treasurer, Mr. J. H. Gardiner, re-elected; hon. secretary second twenty, Mr. Skehan; general committee, Messrs. Fuhrhop, H. T. Jordan, Byrne, Ley, and H. Groube; match committee, Messrs. Fuhrhop, Bruce, Collie, and Byrne.

Named also above are the following elected office-bearers: Patrons, Messrs. J. Laurens, M.L.A., Dr. Burke, and H. Wilson, J. P. Club President elect 1880 was Mr. R. [Richard] Sutcliffe, re-elected. Elected as the club's Vice-Presidents, were Messrs, Daniells, Daly, J.H. Gardiner, and Mr. Launder. Elected in 1880 as the clubs Honorary Secretary was Mr W. T. H. Neely; ditto Honorary Treasurer, Mr. J. H. Gardiner, re-elected.

Also elected by members to continue as the second-20 coach was Mr. Skehan [team secretary, second-20 and along with general committee members, Messrs H. Fuhrhop, H. T. Jordan, and Messrs Byrne, Ley, and H. Groube; and the match committee for season 1880 were Messrs, Fuhrhop, Bruce, Collie, and Byrne.

[263] MEETINGS OF FOOTBALL CLUBS, "HOTHAM FOOTBALL CLUB," The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria, Monday 5th April 1880, Page 7.

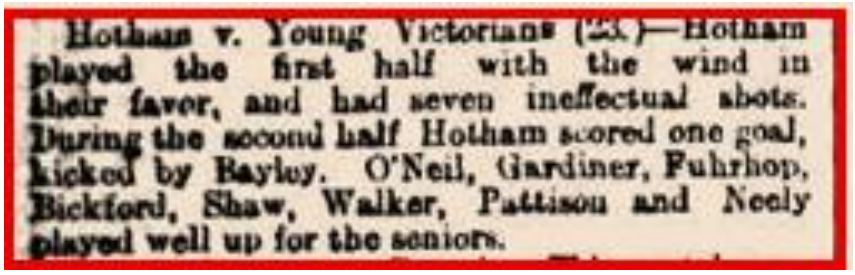
The practice match between North as Hotham United second-20 fielding 23 players and Carlton's first 20 played Saturday 8th May 1880 is submitted below recognising Crossby, Craig and Buncle played well: [264]



FOOTBALL.

Carlton v. Hotham United (23).—The weather on Saturday was not at all suitable for football, the rain which fell in the early part of the day rendering the ground sloppy, whilst in the afternoon a high wind prevailed. The match between the first twenty of Carlton and the Hotham United attracted a considerable number of spectators, notwithstanding the cold weather. The ball was not kicked off until about twenty minutes to four o'clock, and the Carlton, having the benefit of the wind behind them, at once laid siege to their opponents' goal, at which they had constant shots. The wind appeared to baffle them, and although several chances were obtained, they failed to score until Gunn, by a good running kick, sent the ball fairly between the posts. Twice after that the posts were struck, and once the ball was stopped in goal, but Coulthard then scored the second goal. The result of the first half was two goals and fourteen behinds, the Hotham United during that time never getting the ball beyond the centre. Despite the fact that they had the wind against them, the Carlton, in commencing the second half again placed their opponents' goal in danger, and secured three more behinds, one of them being the result of a very good kick for goal by Wilson. The Hotham United then got the ball down to the other end, and obtained two behinds. For Carlton, Wilson, Coulthard, Spear, Bragge and Gunn all played well; whilst for the Hotham United the play of Crossby, Craig and Buncle, was most noticeable.

The second of two practices matches which involved Hotham's first-20 senior team playing 23 players form the Young Victorians recognised contributions from Hotham's players, Bayley, O'Neil, Gardiner, Fuhrhop, Bickford, Shaw, Walker, Pattison, and Neely: [265]



Hotham v. Young Victorians (23.)—Hotham played the first half with the wind in their favor, and had seven ineffectual shots. During the second half Hotham scored one goal, kicked by Bayley. O'Neil, Gardiner, Fuhrhop, Bickford, Shaw, Walker, Pattison and Neely played well up for the seniors.

[264] FOOTBALL, CARLTION v HOTHAM UNITED [second-20 x 23 player], The Age, Melbourne, Victoria, Monday 10th May 1880, Page 4.
[265] FOOTBALL, HOTHAM [first-20] v YOUNG VICTORIANS [x 23 player], The Age, Melbourne, Victoria, Monday 10th May 1880, Page 4.

Hotham first-20 team are found playing Melbourne Football Club season proper on Saturday 29th May 1880. The list of North Melbourne players selected for the first team that day were: Butt, Bayley, Bruce, Bickford, Byrne, Cooper, Fuhrhop (Captain), Gardiner, Ley, Medway, McLean, Neely, Owens, O'Neil, O'Brien, Paterson, James Robertson, Shaw, Tomlins, Walker and Waldron:

THIS AFTERNOON'S SPORTS.

FOOTBALL.

The most interesting football match to be played this afternoon will be that between the Melbourne and Hotham Clubs. As the latter team played so well in the match with Geelong on the Queen's Birthday, the match to-day is expected to give an idea as to the chances the Melbourne Club will have when they meet the premier club of the colony. The match to-day will be played on the Melbourne cricket-ground. Melbourne will be represented by J. Adams, D. Aitken, C. Baker, F. Baker, J. Bennie, R. Booth, W. Boys, B. C. Lamrock, E. Longden, W. Longden, J. Macdonald, M. Mackenzie, J. G. M'Kie, F. Nash, F. Power, W. H. Roberts, E. A. Smart, C. H. Sayer, J. F. Watson, A. Young; emergencies, C. Cook, E. Silvester. The following is the Hotham team:—Messrs. Butt, Bayley, Bruce, Bickford, Byrne, Cooper, Fuhrhop (captain), Gardiner, Ley, Medway, M'Lean, Neely, Owens, O'Neil, O'Brien, Paterson, Jas. Robertson, Shaw, Tomlins, Walker, and Waldron.

Below is a general summary of the match played between these two clubs: [266]

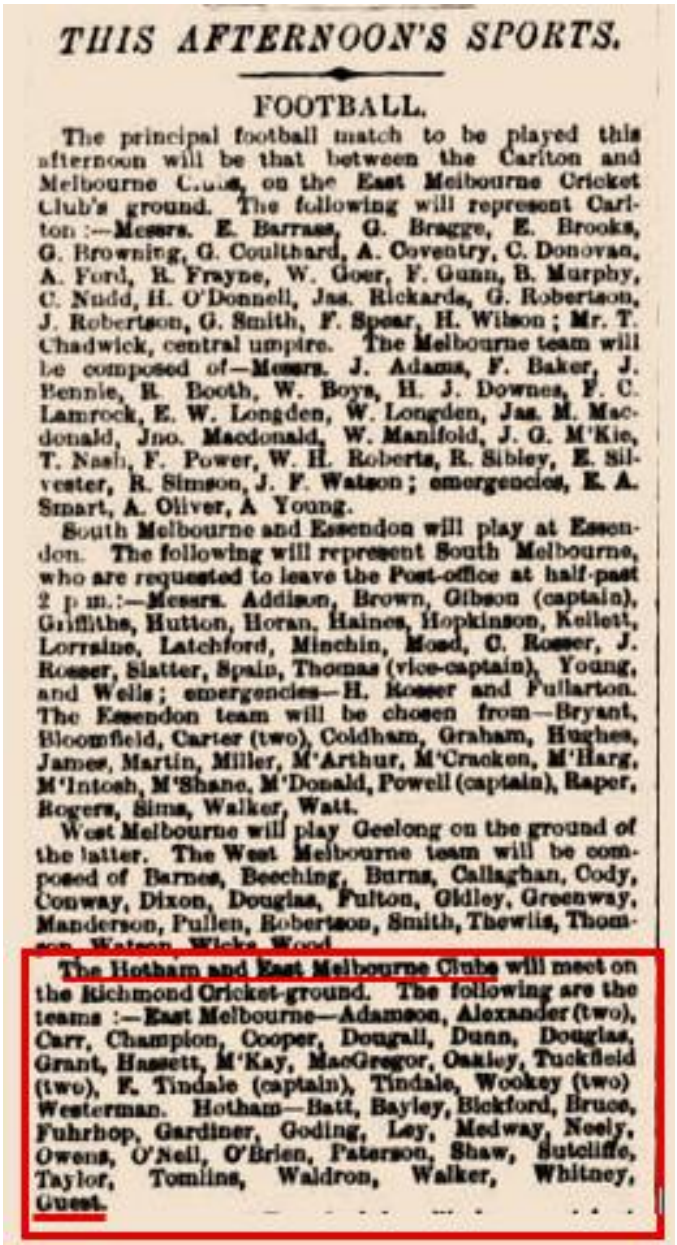
FOOTBALL NOTES.

By Mark.

The match between Hotham and Melbourne on Saturday last was a very fine one, and the grand play of Hotham would undoubtedly have occasioned surprise had it not been that on the previous Monday they proved to Geelong that they could not be trifled with. At the outset I confess I expected Melbourne to win, but after the first few minutes' play I would not have been at all surprised if the contest had ended in an easy victory for Hotham. The team sent into the field by Melbourne certainly appeared on paper to be a very strong one, but then Melbourne can never be relied on. If it be true that there is a charm in uncertainty, then the play of Melbourne can fairly be termed charming. In the first hour's play on Saturday they were scarcely ever in the game, and Hotham were continually shooting for goal. Fortunately for Melbourne they did not succeed, and in the second half the red and blues had a good opportunity to retrieve themselves in a measure. It cannot, however, be said that their play was equal to that of Hotham. The game was a good one in consequence of the spurt made in the second half by Melbourne, but Hotham played with more judgment, always kicking when they had a chance instead of trying to effect runs, like their opponents. It is a pity that when two such fine teams are pitted against one another the weather is not more propitious. The recent rains had rendered the Melbourne Cricket Ground unfit for the game. Under the circumstances it would have been better for the sake of football to have played the game outside, but then the gate money was too much of a temptation, and the contest took place inside.

[266] FOOTBALL NOTES, MELBOURNE V HOTHAM, Leader, Melbourne, Saturday 5th June 1880, Page 13.

Aged then in 1880, was 20-year-old William Langford Guest (1860-1922) who played for North's first-20- team Hotham in the match between East Melbourne Football Club on Saturday 10th July 1880 on the Richmond Cricket Ground (Punt Road). Will is the present authors grand uncle: [267] [268] [269]



THIS AFTERNOON'S SPORTS.

FOOTBALL.

The principal football match to be played this afternoon will be that between the Carlton and Melbourne Clubs, on the East Melbourne Cricket Club's ground. The following will represent Carlton :—Messrs. E. Barrass, G. Bragge, E. Brooks, G. Browning, G. Coulthard, A. Coventry, C. Donovan, A. Ford, R. Frayne, W. Goer, F. Gunn, B. Murphy, C. Nudd, H. O'Donnell, Jas. Rickards, G. Robertson, J. Robertson, G. Smith, F. Spear, H. Wilson; Mr. T. Chadwick, central umpire. The Melbourne team will be composed of—Messrs. J. Adams, F. Baker, J. Bennie, R. Booth, W. Boys, H. J. Downes, F. C. Lamrock, E. W. Longden, W. Longden, Jas. M. Macdonald, Jno. Macdonald, W. Manifold, J. G. M'Kie, T. Nash, F. Power, W. H. Roberts, R. Sibley, E. Silvester, R. Simson, J. F. Watson; emergencies, E. A. Smart, A. Oliver, A. Young.

South Melbourne and Essendon will play at Essendon. The following will represent South Melbourne, who are requested to leave the Post-office at half-past 2 p.m.:—Messrs. Addison, Brown, Gibson (captain), Griffiths, Hutton, Horan, Haines, Hopkinson, Kellett, Lorraine, Latchford, Minchin, Mood, C. Rosser, J. Rosser, Slatter, Spain, Thomas (vice-captain), Young, and Wells; emergencies—H. Rosser and Fullarton. The Essendon team will be chosen from—Bryant, Bloomfield, Carter (two), Coldham, Graham, Hughes, James, Martin, Miller, M'Arthur, M'Cracken, M'Harg, M'Intosh, M'Shane, M'Donald, Powell (captain), Raper, Rogers, Sims, Walker, Watt.

West Melbourne will play Geelong on the ground of the latter. The West Melbourne team will be composed of Barnes, Beeching, Burns, Callaghan, Cody, Conway, Dixon, Douglas, Fulton, Gidley, Greenway, Manderson, Pullen, Robertson, Smith, Thewlis, Thomson, Watson, Wicks, Wood.

The Hotham and East Melbourne Clubs will meet on the Richmond Cricket-ground. The following are the teams :—East Melbourne—Adamson, Alexander (two), Carr, Champion, Cooper, Dougall, Dunn, Douglas, Grant, Hassett, M'Kay, MacGregor, Oakley, Tuckfield (two), F. Tindale (captain), Tindale, Wookey (two) Westerman. Hotham—Batt, Bayley, Bickford, Bruce, Fuhrhop, Gardiner, Goding, Ley, Medway, Neely, Owens, O'Neil, O'Brien, Paterson, Shaw, Sutcliffe, Taylor, Tomlins, Waldron, Walker, Whitney, Guest.

That day his fellow first-20 teams were Butt, Bayley, Bickford, Bruce, Fuhrhop, Gardiner, Goding, Ley, Medway, Neely, Owens, O'Neill, O'Brien, Paterson, Shaw, Sutcliffe, Taylor, Tomlins, Waldron, Walker, Whitney. [270]

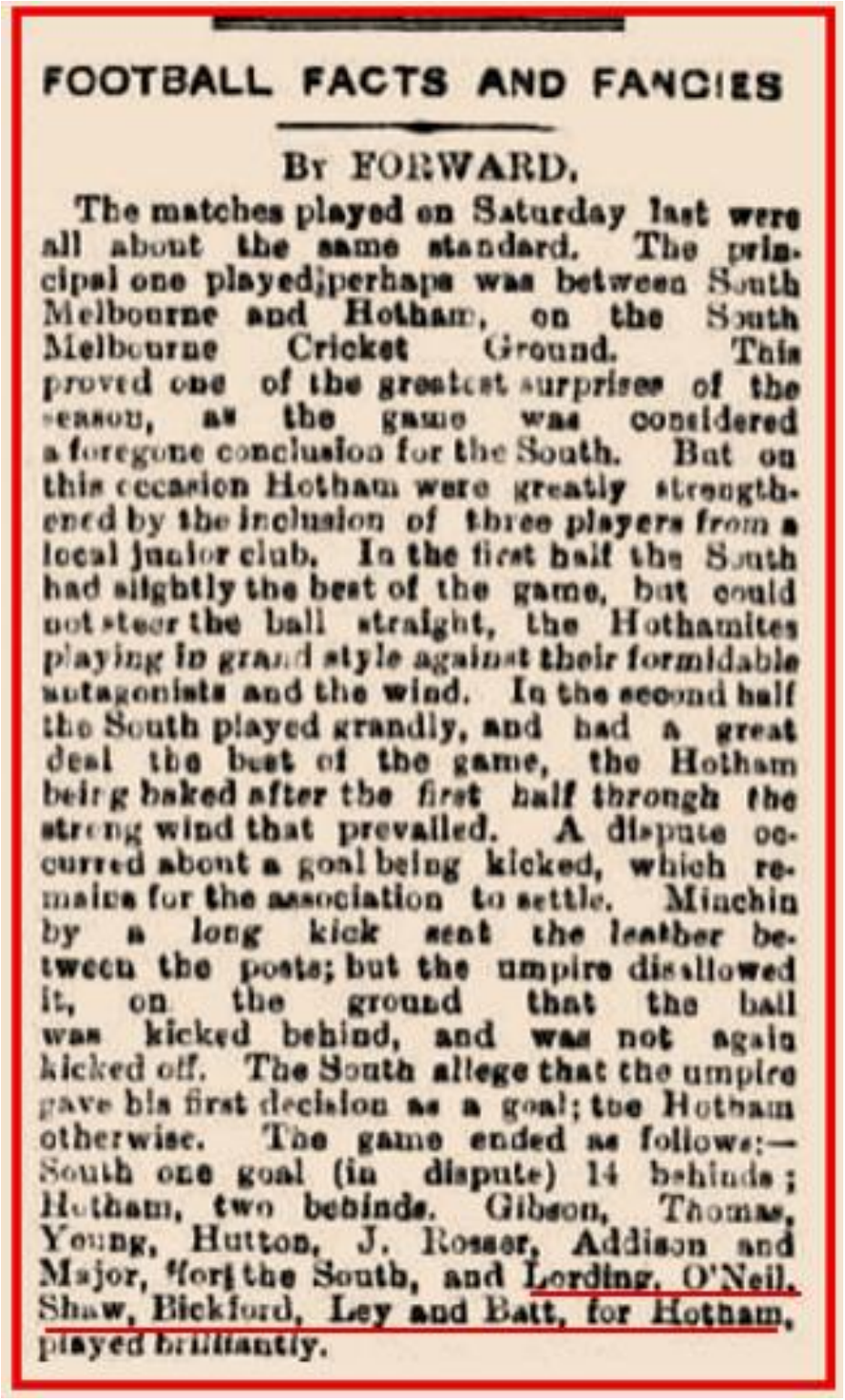
[267] The Argus, Melbourne Victoria, Saturday 10th July 1880, Page 9, This Afternoon's Sports, Hotham v East Melbourne [First Twenty] [mine].

[268] William Langford "Guest" known by club members, family and friends as Will Guest, also Mr. W. L. Guest - selected to play.

[269] Will Guest's two younger brother Jack aged 18 and Archie aged 14 years in 1880, ruling them out as Guest picked to play first-20 in 1880, relative to brother Will Guest, aged 20 years and senior player experience.

[270] Ibid, The Argus, Melbourne Victoria, Saturday 10th July 1880, Page 9.

The Herald's "Football Facts and Fancies," published on Friday, August 6, 1880, highlights Frank Lording, a former player from St's Anglican Church School Football Club. He was first promoted to North's first team in 1876 and continued to impress in 1879. Lording, along with his teammates O'Neil, Shaw, Bickford, Ley, and Butt—who also came from St Mary's—played exceptionally for Hotham Other players from the same class and school teams, such as Guest and Buncle, are not mentioned below. [271]



FOOTBALL FACTS AND FANCIES

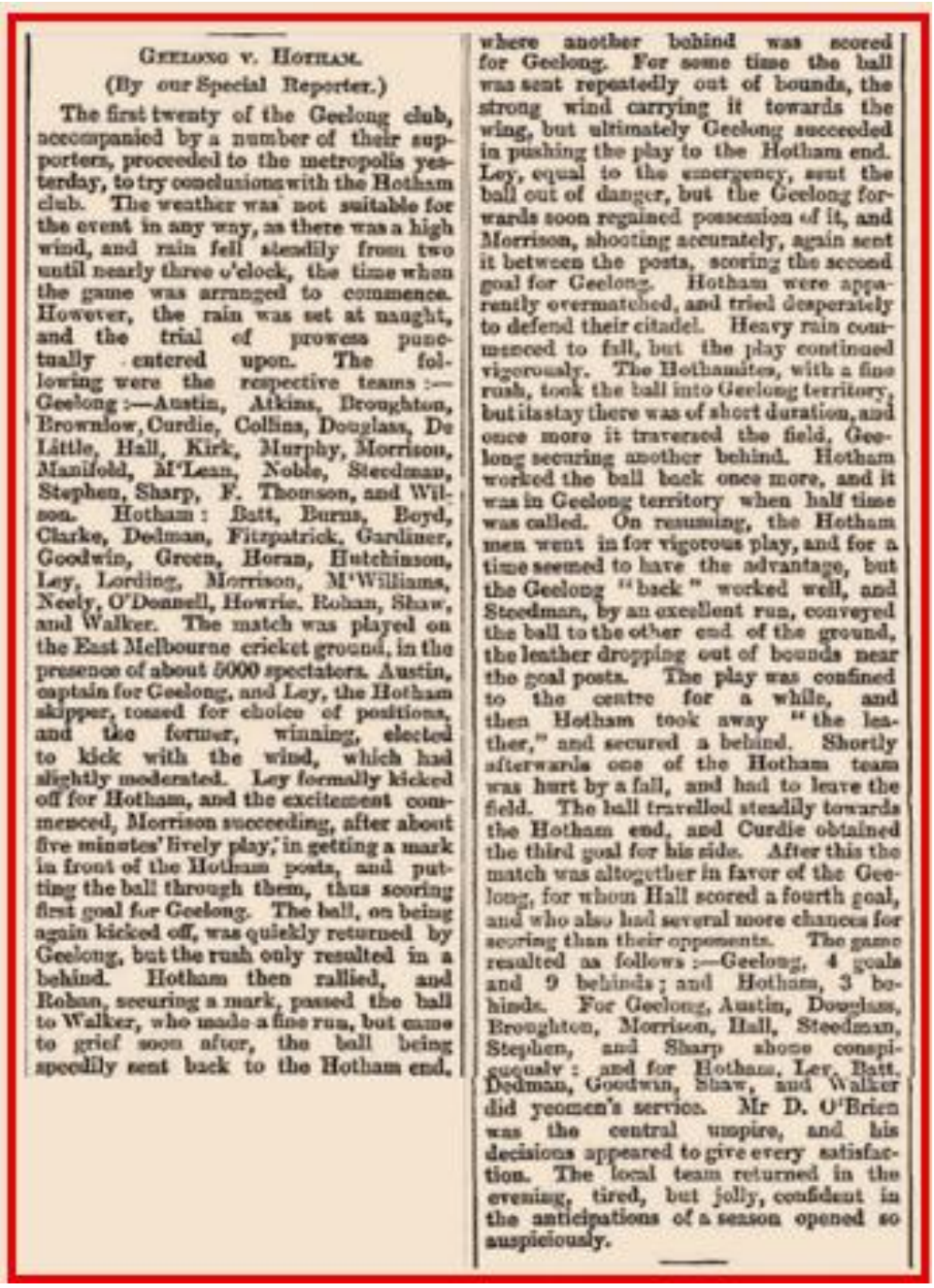
By FORWARD.

The matches played on Saturday last were all about the same standard. The principal one played perhaps was between South Melbourne and Hotham, on the South Melbourne Cricket Ground. This proved one of the greatest surprises of the season, as the game was considered a foregone conclusion for the South. But on this occasion Hotham were greatly strengthened by the inclusion of three players from a local junior club. In the first half the South had slightly the best of the game, but could not steer the ball straight, the Hothamites playing in grand style against their formidable antagonists and the wind. In the second half the South played grandly, and had a great deal the best of the game, the Hotham being baked after the first half through the strong wind that prevailed. A dispute occurred about a goal being kicked, which remains for the association to settle. Minchin by a long kick sent the leather between the posts; but the umpire disallowed it, on the ground that the ball was kicked behind, and was not again kicked off. The South allege that the umpire gave his first decision as a goal; the Hotham otherwise. The game ended as follows:—South one goal (in dispute) 14 behinds; Hotham, two behinds. Gibson, Thomas, Young, Hutton, J. Rosser, Addison and Major, for the South, and Lording, O'Neil, Shaw, Bickford, Ley and Batt, for Hotham, played brilliantly.

[271] North Melbourne player, and later Essendon player Sam Butt's surname is often misspelled Batt.

1881

The article below reports the match between Hotham and Geelong played in Royal Park on Saturday the 21st May 1881. Recognised are Hotham players, Butt [272] Burns, Boyd, Clarke, Dodman, Fitzpatrick, Gardiner, Goodwin, Green, Horan, Hutchinson, Ley, Lording, Morrison, McWilliams, Neely, O'Donnell, Howrie, Rohan, Shaw and Walker. They played in front of 5000 spectators at the East Melbourne Cricket Ground. The powerhouse club Geelong Football Club beat Hotham by a large margin for the time 4 goals 9 behinds, 33 points to Hotham zero goals, 3 behinds, 3 points: [273]



GEELONG v. HOTHAM.

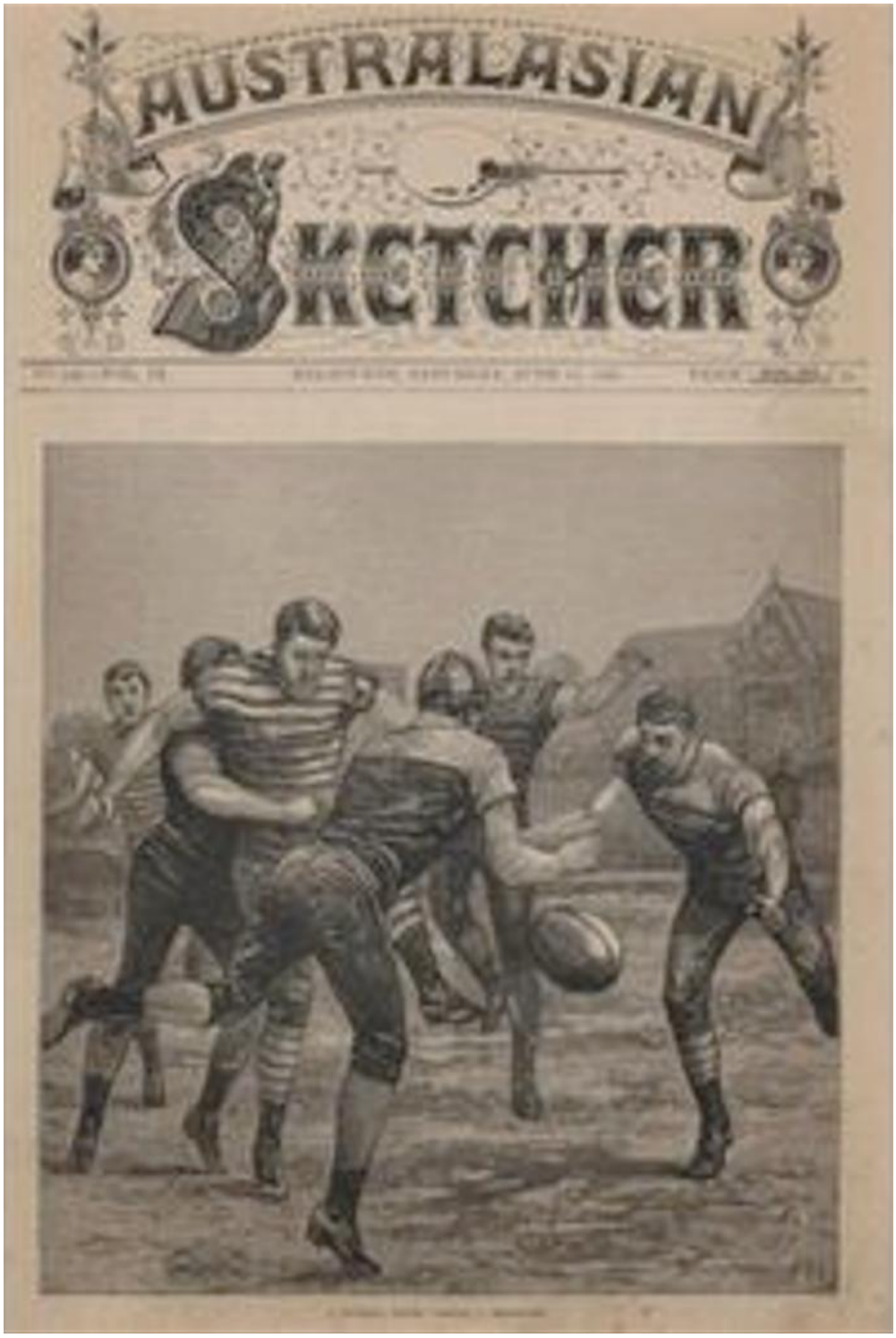
(By our Special Reporter.)

The first twenty of the Geelong club, accompanied by a number of their supporters, proceeded to the metropolis yesterday, to try conclusions with the Hotham club. The weather was not suitable for the event in any way, as there was a high wind, and rain fell steadily from two until nearly three o'clock, the time when the game was arranged to commence. However, the rain was set at naught, and the trial of prowess punctually entered upon. The following were the respective teams :—Geelong :—Austin, Atkins, Broughton, Brownlow, Curdie, Collins, Douglass, De Little, Hall, Kirk, Murphy, Morrison, Manifold, M'Lean, Noble, Steedman, Stephen, Sharp, F. Thomson, and Wilson. Hotham : Batt, Burns, Boyd, Clarke, Dedman, Fitzpatrick, Gardiner, Goodwin, Green, Horan, Hutchinson, Ley, Lording, Morrison, M'Williams, Neely, O'Donnell, Howrie, Rohan, Shaw, and Walker. The match was played on the East Melbourne cricket ground, in the presence of about 5000 spectators. Austin, captain for Geelong, and Ley, the Hotham skipper, tossed for choice of positions, and the former, winning, elected to kick with the wind, which had slightly moderated. Ley formally kicked off for Hotham, and the excitement commenced, Morrison succeeding, after about five minutes' lively play, in getting a mark in front of the Hotham posts, and putting the ball through them, thus scoring first goal for Geelong. The ball, on being again kicked off, was quickly returned by Geelong, but the rush only resulted in a behind. Hotham then rallied, and Rohan, securing a mark, passed the ball to Walker, who made a fine run, but came to grief soon after, the ball being speedily sent back to the Hotham end, where another behind was scored for Geelong. For some time the ball was sent repeatedly out of bounds, the strong wind carrying it towards the wing, but ultimately Geelong succeeded in pushing the play to the Hotham end. Ley, equal to the emergency, sent the ball out of danger, but the Geelong forwards soon regained possession of it, and Morrison, shooting accurately, again sent it between the posts, scoring the second goal for Geelong. Hotham were apparently overmatched, and tried desperately to defend their citadel. Heavy rain commenced to fall, but the play continued vigorously. The Hothamites, with a fine rush, took the ball into Geelong territory, but its stay there was of short duration, and once more it traversed the field, Geelong securing another behind. Hotham worked the ball back once more, and it was in Geelong territory when half time was called. On resuming, the Hotham men went in for vigorous play, and for a time seemed to have the advantage, but the Geelong "back" worked well, and Steedman, by an excellent run, conveyed the ball to the other end of the ground, the leather dropping out of bounds near the goal posts. The play was confined to the centre for a while, and then Hotham took away "the leather," and secured a behind. Shortly afterwards one of the Hotham team was hurt by a fall, and had to leave the field. The ball travelled steadily towards the Hotham end, and Curdie obtained the third goal for his side. After this the match was altogether in favor of the Geelong, for whom Hall scored a fourth goal, and who also had several more chances for scoring than their opponents. The game resulted as follows :—Geelong, 4 goals and 9 behinds ; and Hotham, 3 behinds. For Geelong, Austin, Douglass, Broughton, Morrison, Hall, Steedman, Stephen, and Sharp shone conspicuously : and for Hotham, Ley, Batt, Dedman, Goodwin, Shaw, and Walker did yeomen's service. Mr D. O'Brien was the central umpire, and his decisions appeared to give every satisfaction. The local team returned in the evening, tired, but jolly, confident in the anticipations of a season opened so auspiciously.

[272] This player is Sam Butt frequently spelled incorrectly "Batt". .

[273] GEELONG v. HOTHAM, Geelong Advertiser, Victoria, Wednesday 25th May 1881, Page 3.

A moment in time is captured from the match between Carlton Football Club and Melbourne Football Club played on Saturday June 4th 1881. The illustration below is by the Australian Sketcher magazine, whereby its writer reported that more than 10,000 fans attended the game. This surpassed the previous week's comparable crowd attendance when Carlton's played South Melbourne Football Club:[274] [275]



[274] Early Football Match Engraving, 1881 'Australasian Sketcher' front page for Saturday June 18th 1881 featuring a large engraving titled 'A Football Match: Carlton v Melbourne.

[275] National Library of Australia, Australasian Sketcher with Pen and Pencil, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 18th June 1881, page 193.

On Saturday the 25th June 1881, among great controversy was an abandoned match played on the East Melbourne ground resulting from a Hotham player Mr. Barnes being picked to play despite a charge of indecent exposure (alleged). The South Melbourne team refused to play and Hotham, in a sign of player solidarity, backed player Barnes refusing to withdraw him despite nearly 5000 spectators waiting for the game to begin.

When the game was called off, the fans could not get their money back and their angst added to the sensational, "non-game" between North and South. Uncertain is what became of the charges made against Hotham player Mr. Barnes: [276]

SCENE AT A FOOTBALL MATCH.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MELBOURNE, Saturday.

There was no match this afternoon between the South Melbourne and Hotham Football Clubs. A young man named Barnes, formerly clerk in the Parliamentary Library, and who was in the early part of the year sentenced to three months' imprisonment for indecent exposure, was included in the Hotham team, and took the field. The South Melbourne men at once refused to play if he took part in the match, and as the other side refused to withdraw him, the red and white walked off the ground. There were about four or five thousand spectators present, and as the paying portion could not get their money back they were greatly disgusted, but behaved in a very orderly manner. Some excited individuals surrounded the treasurer, Mr Gooch, and a money-taker, but did not succeed in relieving him of the bag of money, as a constable came to his assistance, and saw him safely to the pavilion. The money-taker, however, lost his hat, which was made a football of and soon kicked out of shape. The Hotham claim the match, but it is a very barren victory, more especially as most people support the action of the South Melbournites. The East Melbourne club retains possession of the money, which cannot fairly be paid over to the spectators, as a great many of them did not pay. It may be mentioned that the Hotham club had the ground for the day, subject to paying a certain percentage to the cricket club. As things have eventuated it is a matter for great regret that the Melbourne and South Melbourne match was not played to-day. The money taken will probably be handed over to the charities, as the fairest way of settling the question. The Carlton beat the Essendon by two goals and ten behinds to Essendon's thirteen behinds. The Essendon men had the best of the game, but failed to take advantage of it. The Melbourne men had a "soft" thing against East Melbourne, and won by four goals to two goals.

[276] SCENE AT A FOOTBALL MATCH, The Ballarat Star, Victoria, Monday 27th June 1881, Page 2.

The return match, Melbourne v Hotham reported in the Weekly Times on Saturday 17th September 1881, named the following Hotham players McKenzie, Nearn, Bell, Goding, Shaw, Ley, McGinnis, Boyd, O'Brien, Denhert: [277]

MELBOURNE v. HOTHAM.

The above clubs met for the second time this season on the Melbourne football ground, in the presence of a large number of spectators. It was fully half an hour past the appointed time for starting when both teams took the field. Hotham winning the toss, elected to kick with the wind towards the Richmond end. The game was soon started by Watson, of Melbourne, kicking off. Shortly afterwards, Stiffe made a grand mark and had a place-kick for goal, but only scored a behind. Hotham kicked off, and rushed the ball down the Melbourne end, but Booth, by a grand run, passed it well forward to Stiffe, who sent it behind. On being kicked off, Hotham made a good rally to the Melbourne goal, but the ball was no sooner down there than it was brought back to Hotham end, where M'Kenzie got a mark within easy-kicking distance, but he also failed, a behind being the result. Kicked off, it was soon returned by Melbourne, and M'Kenzie had another shot, without result. After some indifferent play, Stiffe got another mark, and had a place-kick, but the ball did not rise high enough, and a behind resulted. Several behinds followed. After several shots for goal, C. Baker, by a place-kick, landed first goal for Melbourne. Ley kicked off, and Thewlis, by a good run, took it well along the grand-stand side. Hotham returned it, and kicked their first behind. Half-time was soon afterwards called, the game standing: Melbourne, one goal and nine behinds; Hotham, one behind. On resuming play, the Hotham rushed the ball towards Melbourne posts. The play, however, did not remain there, and the Hotham goal was soon in danger. Power, by a good place-kick, landing another goal for the "reds." Kicked off by Hotham, the ball was soon forced back. W. Boyd returned it, and the play was for some time on the north wing and back again to the Hotham goal. Hotham soon afterwards made a rush up to the Melbourne goal, securing another behind. Hotham soon afterwards got a goal, kicked by a substitute named Nearn. Melbourne then rushed the ball up to the Hotham goal and scored a behind. Soon after kicking off, the Hotham had the Melbourne goal in danger, and Bell kicked No. 2 for Hotham. M'Kenzie got a mark, but a behind only resulted. Downes soon after kicked third goal for Melbourne. Several shots followed, but without success. After some centre play Hotham got another goal by the aid of Goding. Time was then called, the game resulting in a draw, Melbourne three goals sixteen behinds, Hotham three goals three behinds. For Melbourne, Booth (captain), Thewlis, Watson, M'Kenzie, and Stiffe played well, as did also Pitcher, who is a valuable acquisition to the first twenty. For Hotham, Shaw played a grand game, and was ably backed by Ley, M'Ginnis, Boyd, O'Brien, and Denhert. The game, although drawn, was decidedly in favour of Melbourne, as the behinds show.

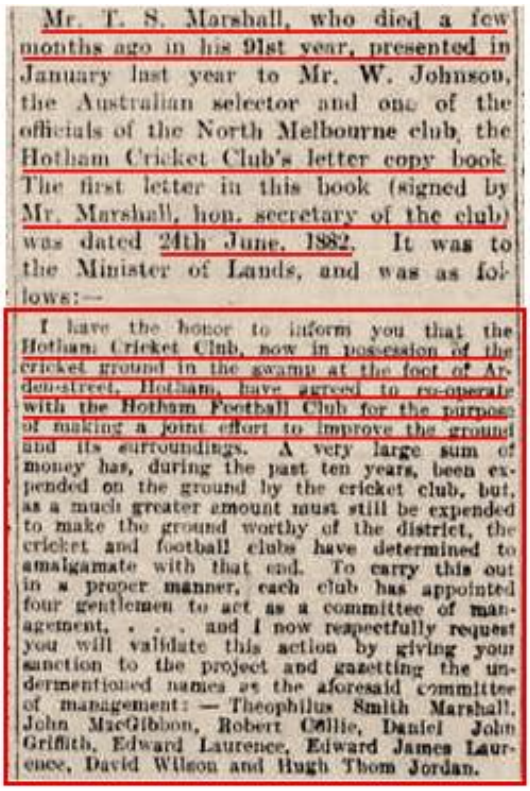
[277] MELBOURNE v. HOTHAM, Weekly Times, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 17th September 1881, Page 5.

1882

Evidence previously submitted confirmed that T.S. Marshall served as the secretary of the Hotham Cricket Club during the 1881/82 season. In this role, he communicated with the Minister of Lands to inform that the cricket division had reached an agreement with the club's governing administrators and the football division to enhance the ground and its surroundings The author believes his letter suggests that the cricket division was permitted to continue its activities on Arden Street in a manner that satisfied the football club's requirements for it to remain operational.

This situation may have been difficult for T.S. Marshall, as reflected in other remarks F.M wrote about in 1933 [278]what Marshall recalled about the football club's existence, which lacked precise dates and simply confirmed that it was present in the 1860s. He made these comments after he left the North Melbourne Club in 1882 and while leading the VFA as Secretary from 1882 to 1897.

This is when he also reportedly showed little regard for the Irish influence on the first edition of Australian in the gravel-match game held in South Yarra in July 1856, referring to it dismissively as Rafferty's rules and mocked the playing style of the Irish, to whom no doubt many in that gam e in 1856 played with the North Melbourne Club in Graham's Paddock:[279]



Mr. T. S. Marshall, who died a few months ago in his 91st year, presented in January last year to Mr. W. Johnson, the Australian selector and one of the officials of the North Melbourne club, the Hotham Cricket Club's letter copy book. The first letter in this book (signed by Mr. Marshall, hon. secretary of the club) was dated 24th June, 1882. It was to the Minister of Lands, and was as follows:—

I have the honor to inform you that the Hotham Cricket Club, now in possession of the cricket ground in the swamp at the foot of Arden-street, Hotham, have agreed to co-operate with the Hotham Football Club for the purpose of making a joint effort to improve the ground and its surroundings. A very large sum of money has, during the past ten years, been expended on the ground by the cricket club, but, as a much greater amount must still be expended to make the ground worthy of the district, the cricket and football clubs have determined to amalgamate with that end. To carry this out in a proper manner, each club has appointed four gentlemen to act as a committee of management, . . . and I now respectfully request you will validate this action by giving your sanction to the project and gazetting the undermentioned names as the aforesaid committee of management: — Theophilus Smith Marshall, John MacGibbon, Robert Ollie, Daniel John Griffith, Edward Laurence, Edward James Laurence, David Wilson and Hugh Thom Jordan.

The following cricket season Jack Guest (1862-1922), also a dual member of the North cricket and football divisions became T.S. Marshall's successor as Hotham Cricket Club Secretary, and with brother Will Guest (1860-1922) helped the social merger of the two clubs at Arden Street.

[278] Melbourne's Playgrounds, No. 2, The Age, Saturday 13th May 1933, page 18, by "F.M."
[279] Football – As She Was Played! By R.H. Beckett, The Herald, Melbourne, Victorian Saturday 14th April 1934, Page 30.

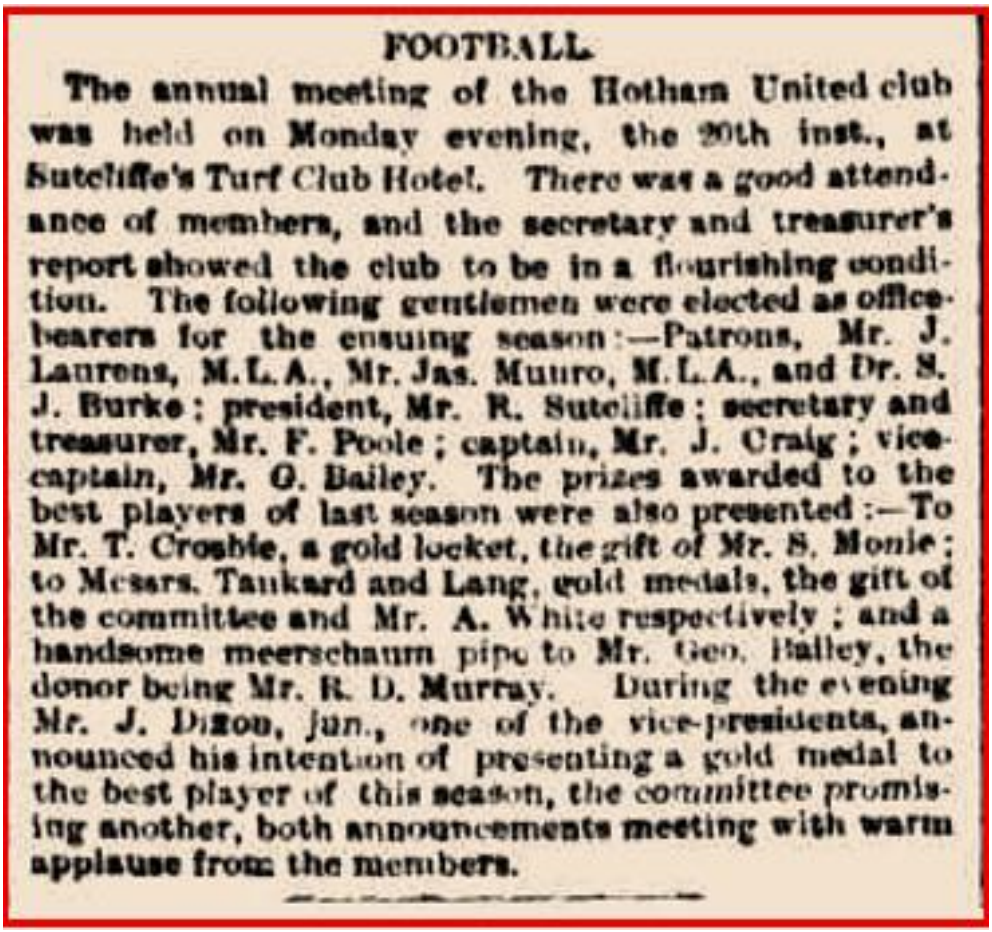
The present author suspects this photograph was taken prior to the last game played by North Melbourne come Hotham in Royal Park in front of the changing rooms with the "HFC 1881" brand, perhaps the sign was to signal North's last full season playing in Royal Park. A ground they had occupied for 20 seasons since the winter of 1860: [280]

The author wonders are the North Melbourne Football Club's changing shed pictured above with the "HFC 1881" sign above the door frame the same building sketched below? The building in the background below appears to coincide with the building pictured above with North members standing proudly in front of it. The photograph of them had to be taken no later than April 1882 which was the time the football club left Royal Park to take up its responsibilities and rights as leaseholder of Arden Street and controller of the North Melbourne Club established prior to 22nd November 1855: [281]

[280] Source, Dowling F, 1997.

[281] Presumptive positive is the author's visual match of building featured within the images above. The cricket player in the sketch is more likely than not therefore, to be images of the North Melbourne Cricket Club players pre-1868 and as early as 1859/60. The sketch perhaps to commemorate either/or the opening of North's cricket and football ground in Royal Park in1859/60 or when the change rooms were built.

On Monday 4th March 1882, a month before departing the Royal Park ground for Arden Street, the North Melbourne Football Club as Hotham held its Annual General Meeting at Sutcliffe's Turf Club Hotel. Elected as office bearers were Patrons, Mr J. Laurens, MLA; Mr James Munro, MLA; and Dr. S.J. Burke. President elect was Mr. Richard Sutcliffe, Secretary and Treasurer, Mr F. Poole. The first-20 club Captain was named, Mr. J. Craig and Vice-Captain, Mr. G. Bailey. Others identified as club members of prominence, included Mr. T. Crosbie; Mr. S. Monie' Mr. [Jospeh] Tankard; Mr. Lang who were e player of note; Mr. A. White, respectively recognised. Add also Mr. George Bailey, Mr. R.D. Murray, and Mr. J. Dixon junior: [282]



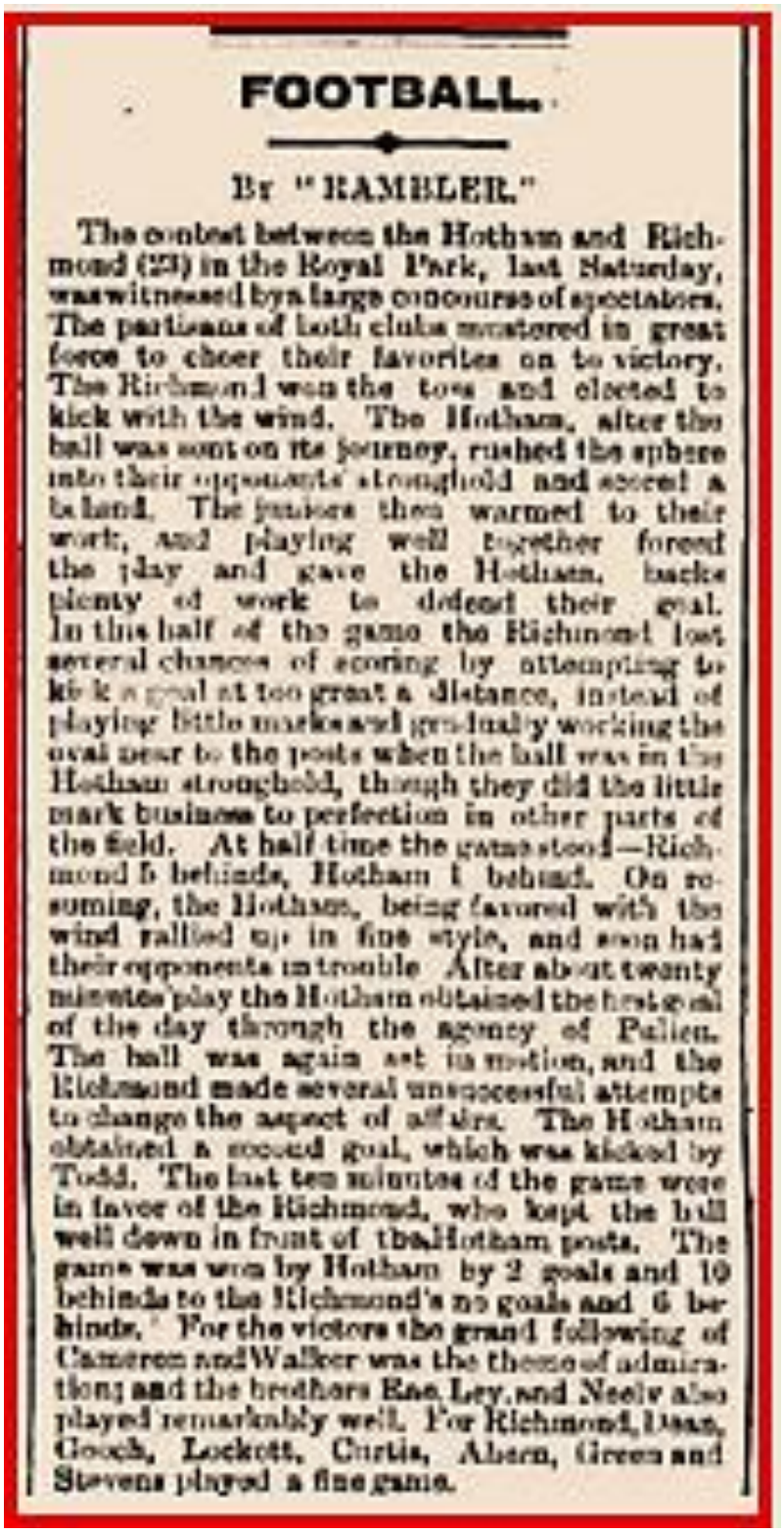
FOOTBALL.

The annual meeting of the Hotham United club was held on Monday evening, the 20th inst., at Sutcliffe's Turf Club Hotel. There was a good attendance of members, and the secretary and treasurer's report showed the club to be in a flourishing condition. The following gentlemen were elected as office-bearers for the ensuing season:—Patrons, Mr. J. Laurens, M.L.A., Mr. Jas. Munro, M.L.A., and Dr. S. J. Burke; president, Mr. R. Sutcliffe; secretary and treasurer, Mr. F. Poole; captain, Mr. J. Craig; vice-captain, Mr. G. Bailey. The prizes awarded to the best players of last season were also presented:—To Mr. T. Crosbie, a gold locket, the gift of Mr. S. Monie; to Messrs. Tankard and Lang, gold medals, the gift of the committee and Mr. A. White respectively; and a handsome meerschaum pipe to Mr. Geo. Bailey, the donor being Mr. R. D. Murray. During the evening Mr. J. Dixon, jun., one of the vice-presidents, announced his intention of presenting a gold medal to the best player of this season, the committee promising another, both announcements meeting with warm applause from the members.

[282] FOOTBALL, AGM OF THE HOTHAM UNITED CLUB, The Age, Melbourne, Victoria, Wednesday 22nd March 1882, Page 6.

North's last game in Royal Park

Hotham is noted for defeating Richmond in their last home game, which took place at Royal Park on Saturday, April 22nd 1882:[283] [284]



FOOTBALL.

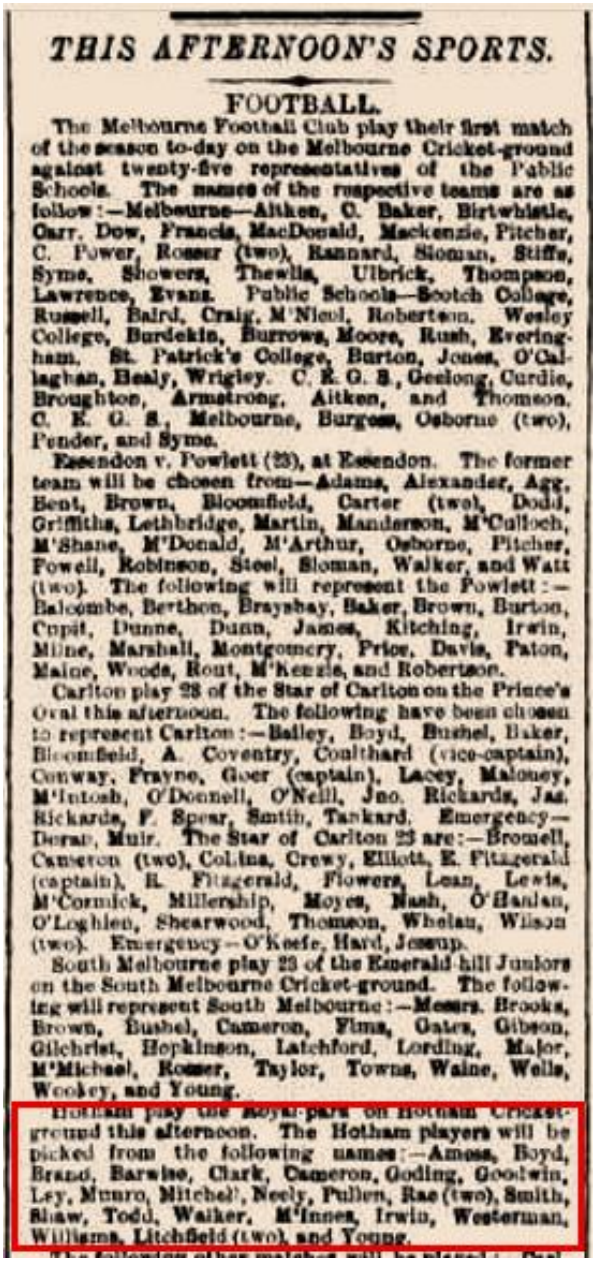
By "RAMBLER."

The contest between the Hotham and Richmond (23) in the Royal Park, last Saturday, was witnessed by a large concourse of spectators. The partisans of both clubs mustered in great force to cheer their favorites on to victory. The Richmond won the toss and elected to kick with the wind. The Hotham, after the ball was sent on its journey, rushed the sphere into their opponents' stronghold and secured a behind. The juniors then warmed to their work, and playing well together forced the play and gave the Hotham backs plenty of work to defend their goal. In this half of the game the Richmond lost several chances of scoring by attempting to kick a goal at too great a distance, instead of playing little marks and gradually working the oval near to the posts when the ball was in the Hotham stronghold, though they did the little mark business to perfection in other parts of the field. At half time the game stood—Richmond 5 behinds, Hotham 1 behind. On resuming, the Hotham, being favored with the wind rallied up in fine style, and soon had their opponents in trouble. After about twenty minutes play the Hotham obtained the first goal of the day through the agency of Pullen. The ball was again set in motion, and the Richmond made several unsuccessful attempts to change the aspect of affairs. The Hotham obtained a second goal, which was kicked by Todd. The last ten minutes of the game were in favor of the Richmond, who kept the ball well down in front of the Hotham posts. The game was won by Hotham by 2 goals and 10 behinds to the Richmond's no goals and 6 behinds. For the victors the grand following of Cameron and Walker was the theme of admiration; and the brothers Rae, Ley, and Neely also played remarkably well. For Richmond, Dean, Gooch, Lockett, Curtis, Abern, Green and Stevens played a fine game.

[283] FOOTBALL, Hotham d Richmond, The Herald, Melbourne, Victoria, Friday 28th April 1882, Page 3.
284 CRICKET, North Melbourne Advertiser, Victoria, Friday 10th February 1882, Page 3.

North's first game at Arden Street

On Saturday, 29th April 1882, North Melbourne Football Club, then known as Hotham, played their first game of Australian Rules Football on the Hotham Cricket Ground [285] [286] - was Hotham Recreational Reserve, also known colloquially as "Arden Street." That historical afternoon, North defeated Royal Park Football Club, 2.9.21 to 0. 2. 2.



THIS AFTERNOON'S SPORTS.

FOOTBALL.

The Melbourne Football Club play their first match of the season to-day on the Melbourne Cricket-ground against twenty-five representatives of the Public Schools. The names of the respective teams are as follow:—Melbourne—Aitken, C. Baker, Birtwhistle, Carr, Dow, Francis, MacDonald, Mackenzie, Pitcher, C. Power, Rosser (two), Rannard, Sloman, Stiffe, Syme, Showers, Thewlis, Ulbrick, Thompson, Lawrence, Evans. Public Schools—Scotch College, Russell, Baird, Craig, M'Nicol, Robertson. Wesley College, Burdekin, Burrows, Moore, Rush, Everingham. St. Patrick's College, Burton, Jones, O'Callaghan, Healy, Wrigley. C. K. G. S., Geelong, Curdie, Broughton, Armstrong, Aitken, and Thomson. C. E. G. S., Melbourne, Burgess, Osborne (two), Pender, and Syme.

Essendon v. Fowlett (23), at Essendon. The former team will be chosen from—Adams, Alexander, Agg, Bent, Brown, Bloomfield, Carter (two), Dodd, Griffiths, Lethbridge, Martin, Manderson, M'Culloch, M'Shane, M'Donald, M'Arthur, Osborne, Pitcher, Powell, Robinson, Steel, Sloman, Walker, and Watt (two). The following will represent the Fowlett:—Balcombe, Berthon, Brayshay, Baker, Brown, Burton, Cupit, Dunne, Dunn, James, Kitching, Irwin, Milne, Marshall, Montgomery, Price, Davis, Paton, Maine, Woods, Rout, M'Kenzie, and Robertson.

Carlton play 23 of the Star of Carlton on the Prince's Oval this afternoon. The following have been chosen to represent Carlton:—Bailey, Boyd, Bushel, Baker, Bloomfield, A. Coventry, Coulthard (vice-captain), Conway, Frayne, Goer (captain), Lacey, Maloney, M'Intosh, O'Donnell, O'Neill, Jno. Rickards, Jas. Rickards, F. Spear, Smith, Tankard. Emergency—Doran, Muir. The Star of Carlton 23 are:—Bromell, Cameron (two), Collins, Crewy, Elliott, E. Fitzgerald (captain), R. Fitzgerald, Flowers, Lean, Lewis, M'Cormick, Millership, Moyes, Nash, O'Hanlan, O'Loghlen, Shearwood, Thomson, Whelan, Wilson (two). Emergency—O'Keefe, Hard, Jessup.

South Melbourne play 23 of the Emerald-hill Juniors on the South Melbourne Cricket-ground. The following will represent South Melbourne:—Messrs. Brooks, Brown, Bushel, Cameron, Fims, Gates, Gibson, Gilchrist, Hopkinson, Latchford, Lording, Major, M'Michael, Rosser, Taylor, Towns, Waine, Wells, Wookey, and Young.

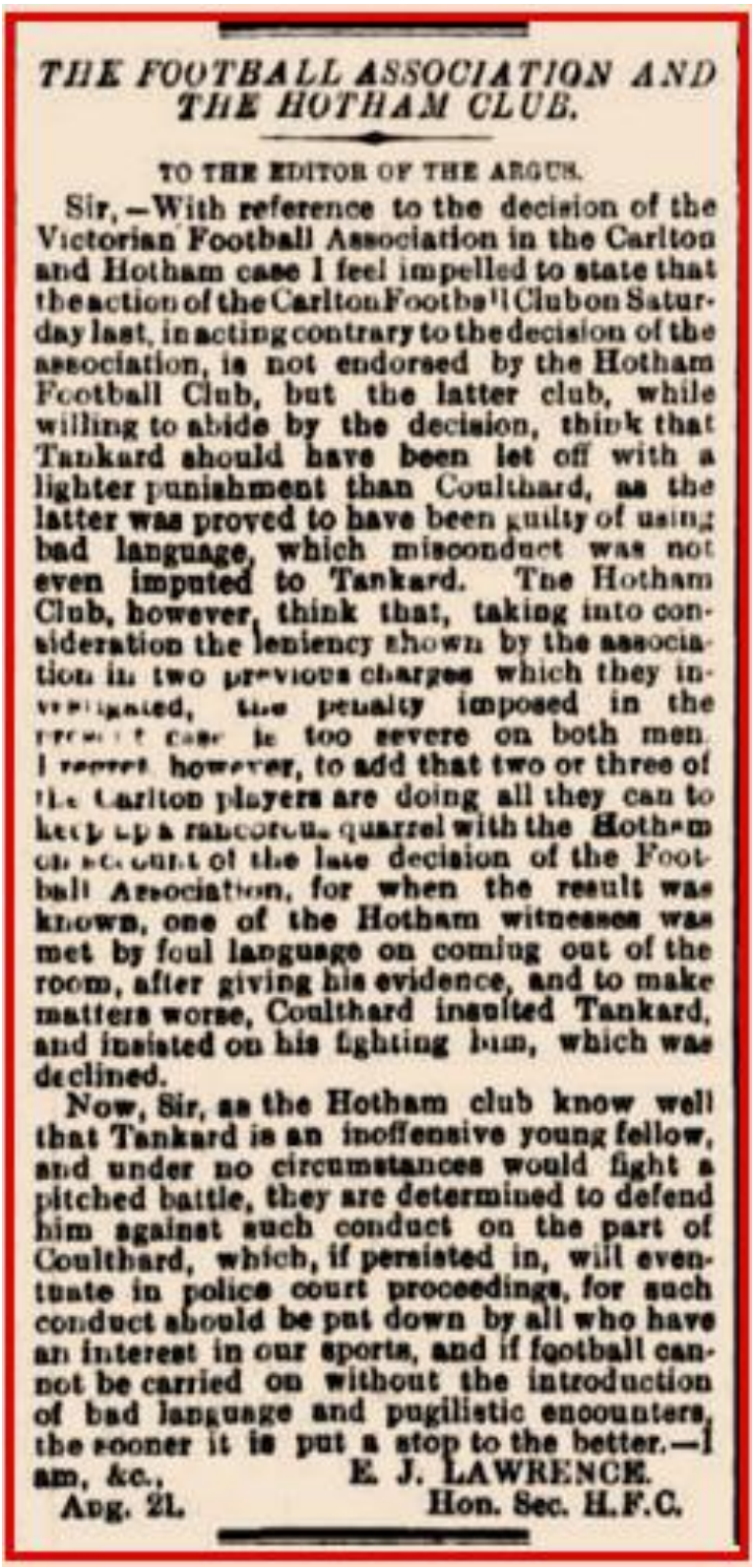
Hotham play the Royal-parks on Hotham Cricket-ground this afternoon. The Hotham players will be picked from the following names:—Amess, Boyd, Brand, Barwise, Clark, Cameron, Goding, Goodwin, Ley, Munro, Mitchell, Neely, Pullen, Rae (two), Smith, Shaw, Todd, Walker, M'Innes, Irwin, Westerman, Williams, Litchfield (two), and Young.

The following other matches will be played:—That

As shown above the North (Hotham) players that took to the field at Arden Street that historical day were: Amess, Boyd, Brandt, Barwise, Clark, Cameron, Golding, Goodwin, Ley, Munro, Mitchell, Neely, Pullen, Rae, Rae, Smith, Shaw, Todd, Walker, McInnes, Irwin, Westerman, Williams, Litchfield, Litchfield and Young. [287]

[285] THIS AFTERNOON'S SPORTS, FOOTBALL, The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 29th April 1882, Page 13.
[286] Arden Street History, NMFC official website, December 1st 2019.
[287] Many of these players are further named in a subsequent article: FOOTBALL, Hotham v Essendon, Essendon and Flemington Chronicle, Victoria, Friday 12th May 1882, Page 3.

Mr. E.J. Lawrence is confirmed to be the football club's Honourable Secretary in 1882. He signed the letter printed below dated August 21st 1882 which was subsequently published in the newspaper. He is found advocating for Hotham player Joey Tankard and seeking for him a lighter penalty than what was imposed by the VFA for Tankard's bad language indiscretion:[288]



THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION AND THE HOTHAM CLUB.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ARGUS.

Sir,—With reference to the decision of the Victorian Football Association in the Carlton and Hotham case I feel impelled to state that the action of the Carlton Football Club on Saturday last, in acting contrary to the decision of the association, is not endorsed by the Hotham Football Club, but the latter club, while willing to abide by the decision, think that Tankard should have been let off with a lighter punishment than Coulthard, as the latter was proved to have been guilty of using bad language, which misconduct was not even imputed to Tankard. The Hotham Club, however, think that, taking into consideration the leniency shown by the association in two previous charges which they investigated, the penalty imposed in the present case is too severe on both men. I regret however, to add that two or three of the Carlton players are doing all they can to keep up a rancorous quarrel with the Hotham on account of the late decision of the Football Association, for when the result was known, one of the Hotham witnesses was met by foul language on coming out of the room, after giving his evidence, and to make matters worse, Coulthard insulted Tankard, and insisted on his fighting him, which was declined.

Now, Sir, as the Hotham club know well that Tankard is an inoffensive young fellow, and under no circumstances would fight a pitched battle, they are determined to defend him against such conduct on the part of Coulthard, which, if persisted in, will eventuate in police court proceedings, for such conduct should be put down by all who have an interest in our sports, and if football cannot be carried on without the introduction of bad language and pugilistic encounters, the sooner it is put a stop to the better.—I am, &c.,

E. J. LAWRENCE.
Hon. Sec. H.F.C.

Aug. 21.

[288] THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION AND THE HOTHAM CLUB, The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria, Tuesday 22nd August 1882, Page 10

FOOTBALL.

By "RAMBLER."

The contest between the Hotham and Richmond (2) in the Royal Park, last Saturday, was witnessed by a large concourse of spectators. The partisans of both clubs mustered in great force to cheer their favorites on to victory. The Richmond won the toss and elected to kick with the wind. The Hotham, after the ball was sent on its journey, rushed the sphere into their opponents' stronghold and secured a behind. The juniors then warmed to their work, and playing well together forced the play and gave the Hotham backs plenty of work to defend their goal. In this half of the game the Richmond lost several chances of scoring by attempting to kick a goal at too great a distance, instead of playing little marks and gradually working the oval near to the posts when the ball was in the Hotham stronghold, though they did the little mark business to perfection in other parts of the field. At half time the game stood—Richmond 5 behinds, Hotham 1 behind. On resuming, the Hotham, being favored with the wind rallied up in fine style, and soon had their opponents in trouble. After about twenty minutes' play the Hotham obtained the first goal of the day through the agency of Pullen. The ball was again set in motion, and the Richmond made several unsuccessful attempts to change the aspect of affairs. The Hotham obtained a second goal, which was kicked by Todd. The last ten minutes of the game were in favor of the Richmond, who kept the ball well down in front of the Hotham posts. The game was won by Hotham by 2 goals and 10 behinds to the Richmond's no goals and 6 behinds. For the victors the grand following of Cameron and Walker was the theme of admiration; and the brothers Eae Ley, and Neele also played remarkably well. For Richmond, Dean, Gooch, Lockett, Curtis, Abern, Green and Stevens played a fine game.

1883

In 1883, football in Royal Park gained remarkable popularity among the youth of North Melbourne and Carlton, as well as nearby suburbs. The park became a hub for kids aged 7 years to young men reaching the age of under-21, gravitated to Royal Park each and every Saturday with an estimated number no fewer than 500 to 600 athletes competing each Saturday afternoon, about three to four teams on the crowded fields.

This equates to the equivalent of 25 to 30 teams and the activity coincided with North Melbourne's first and second-20 teams continuing to play their home matches in Royal Park since 1860, as well as the Carlton Football Club also holding many of their home games in Royal Park after becoming nomadic since 1876.

North also began to field it third-20 team from 1877 called Hotham Hill and renamed it Courtney United. Primarily the North Melbourne Football Club needed the third open age junior club which was made up of under-21 players. So not to lose their local youths to the nearby Carlton Football Club.[289]

By the year 1883 so large was youth population base swelling in Hotham/North Melbourne that on most weekends in Royal Park most there were as many as 25-30 ad hoc, pop-up games organised by North Melbourne's youths as young as 7 and as old as 21 playing matches at the same time in the park.

SMALL FOOTBALLERS IN ROUGH PLACES.

On every Saturday afternoon, no matter what the weather, 500 or 600 young persons, varying in age from seven to 20 years, engage in the exhilarating pastime of football at the Royal-park. The ground on which they meet is a green paddock of wide extent, with considerable irregularity of contour, and dotted over with bare patches, which have probably been worn by the feet of lonely goalkeepers patrolling over a limited space to keep themselves warm. At 3 o'clock the visitor —for it would be beyond the bounds of reason to imagine more than one on the ground at a time—finds the sport in full swing.

Goal-posts of a great variety of height and thickness are stuck irregularly in the turf, and in numbers sufficient to remind him of the little flag-poles which mark the course at a foot race. A band of ragged urchins of tender years are stripped for vigorous action as far as the bounds of decency, as they understand the word, will permit, and there is scarcely one of them that is destitute of some distinctive bit of colour in his apparel to indicate his membership of the Imperial, the Royal, the Eureka, or other "club." Grimy of face, they have evidently come direct from the workshop to the ground, deeming a preliminary wash as the veriest formality conceivable. They are disposed to be argumentative, and their voices, altogether out of proportion with their stature, mingle in a wild chorus as they dispute the bearings of the law upon some questionable coup. There is no umpire. All must be players or nothing. If the rain come down sharply, it only adds a zest to the game, the consequences being left for parents and guardians to rectify with bottle or birch, according to taste or principle.

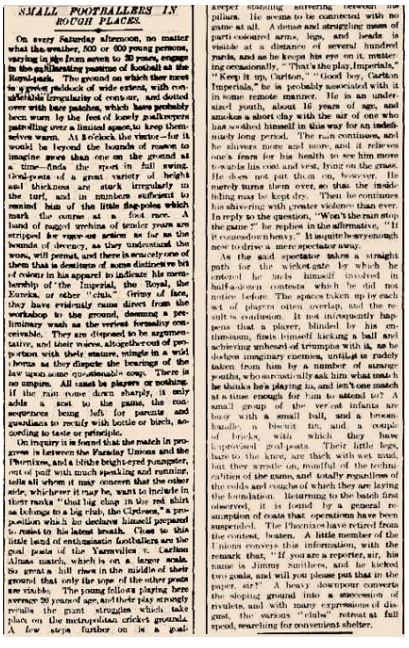
[289] In 1876, it is highly probable that the former players of St Mary's Church of England Football Club, who did not participate in the first-20 or second 20 football for North, established the Hotham Hill, which later became Courtney United football team for North.

On inquiry it is found that the match in progress is between the Faraday Unions and the Phœnixes, and a blithe bright-eyed youngster, out of puff with much speaking and running, tells all whom it may concern that the other side, whichever it may be, want to include in their ranks "that big chap in the red shirt as belongs to a big club, the "Clydeses," a proposition which he declares himself prepared to resist to his latest breath. Close to this little band of enthusiastic footballers are the goal posts of *the Yarravilles v. Carlton Almas match, which is on a larger scale.*

So great a hill rises in the middle of their ground that only the tops of the other posts are visible. The young fellows playing here average 20 years of age, and their play strongly recalls the giant struggles which take place on the metropolitan cricket grounds. A few steps further on is a goalkeeper, standing shivering between his pillars. He seems to be connected with no game at all. A dense and struggling mass of parti-coloured arms, legs, and heads is visible at a distance of several hundred yards, and as he keeps his eye on it, muttering occasionally, " That's the play, Imperials," "Keep it up, Carlton," "Good boy, Carlton Imperials," he is probably associated with it in some remote manner. He is an undersized youth, about 16 years of age, and smokes a short clay with the air of one who has soothed himself in this way for an indefinitely long period. The rain continues, and he shivers more and more, and it relieves one's fears for his health to see him move towards his coat and vest, lying on the grass.

He does not put them on, however. He merely turns them over, so that the inside hiding may be kept dry. Then he continues his shivering with greater violence than ever. In reply to the question, "Won't the rain stop the game." he replies in the affirmative, "If it comes down heavy." It is quite heavy enough now to drive a mere spectator away.

As the said spectator takes a straight path for the wicket-gate by which he entered he finds himself involved half-a-dozen contests which he did not notice before. The spaces taken up by each set of players often overlap, and the result is confusion. It not infrequently happens that a player, blinded by his enthusiasm, finds himself kicking a ball and achieving unheard of triumphs with it, as he dodges imaginary enemies, until it is rudely taken from him by a number of strange youths, who sarcastically ask him what match he thinks he's playing in, and isn't one match at a time enough for him to attend to? A small group of the veriest infants are busy with a small ball, and a broom handle, a biscuit tin, and a couple of bricks, with which they have improvised goal-posts. Their little legs, bare to the knee, are thick with wet mud, but they wrestle on, mindful of the technicalities of the game, and totally regardless of the colds and coughs of which they are laying the foundation. Returning to the batch first observed, it is found by, a general resumption of coats "that operations have been suspended. The Phœnixes have retired from the contest, beaten. A little member of the Unions conveys this information, with the remark that, "If you are a reporter, sir, his name is Jimmy Smithers, and he kicked two goals, and will you please put that in the paper, sir?" A heavy downpour converts the sloping ground into a succession of rivulets, and with many expressions of disgust, the various "clubs" retreat at full speed, searching for convenient shelter.



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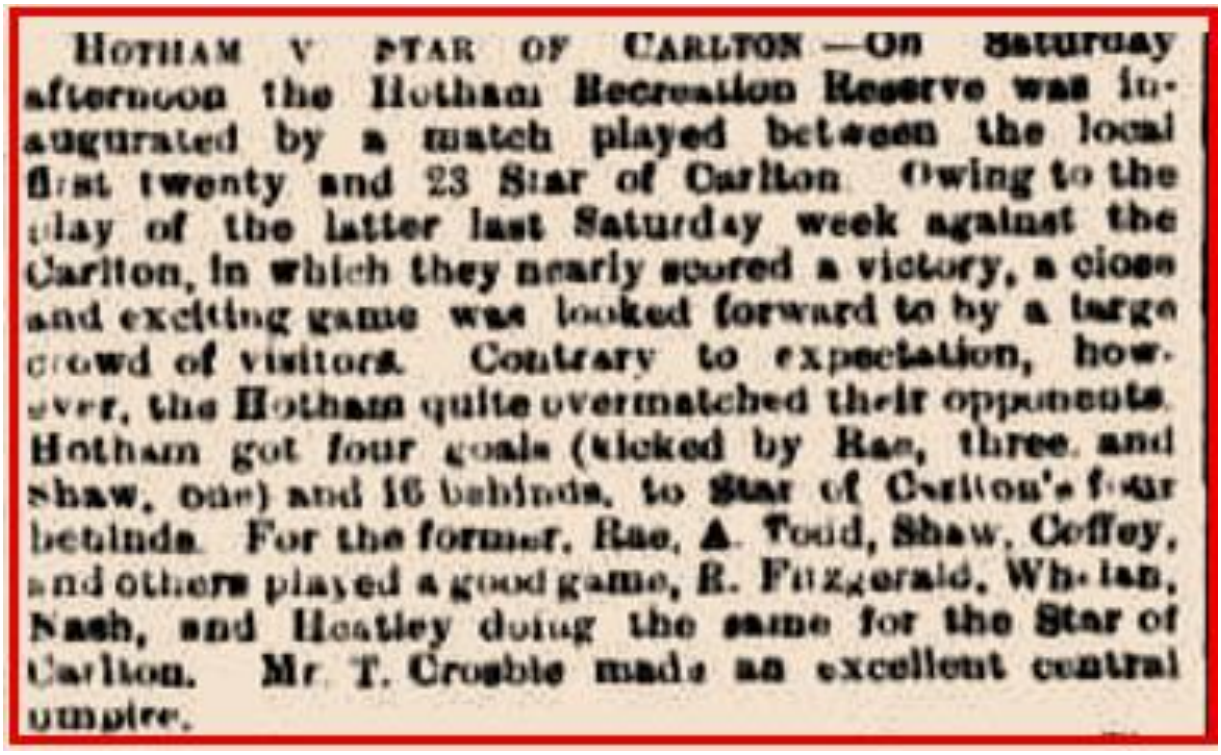
First found for North Melbourne Football Club for the 1883 season saw Hotham play Star of Carlton at Hotham Recreational Reserve (Arden Street Oval) on Saturday 12th May 1883. Named that day playing for Hotham were, Rae, A. Todd, Shaw, and Coffey: [290]



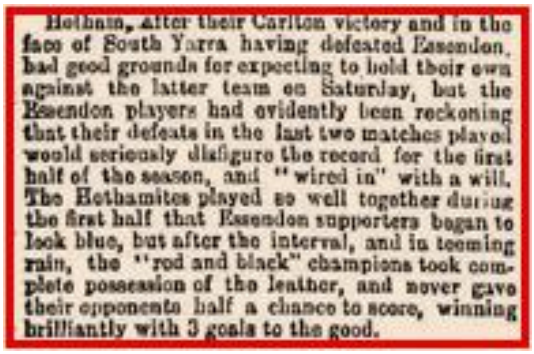
HOTHAM V STAR OF CARLTON.—On Saturday afternoon the Hotham Recreation Reserve was inaugurated by a match played between the local first twenty and 23 Star of Carlton. Owing to the play of the latter last Saturday week against the Carlton, in which they nearly scored a victory, a close and exciting game was looked forward to by a large crowd of visitors. Contrary to expectation, however, the Hotham quite overmatched their opponents. Hotham got four goals (kicked by Rae, three, and Shaw, one) and 16 behinds, to Star of Carlton's four behinds. For the former, Rae, A. Todd, Shaw, Coffey, and others played a good game, R. Fitzgerald, Whelan, Nash, and Heatley doing the same for the Star of Carlton. Mr. T. Crosbie made an excellent central umpire.

The following week on Saturday the 19th May 1883, Hotham lined up against Royal Park Football Club at the Hotham Recreational Reserve. Named for Hotham were players: O'Brien, Todd, Coffey, Perkins, Parkins, Litchfield, Tankard and Franks: [291]

Hotham met 32 of Royal-park on Saturday afternoon, at Hotham Reserve. The former team played a good concerted game from the start, having plenty of opportunities to score, of three of which they availed themselves in the first half. The second half produced a similar result, the finish being Hotham six goals, kicked by O'Brien and Todd (two each), Coffey and Perkins (one each), and 16 behinds, to Royal-park nil. For Hotham, Parkins, Coffey, Litchfield, Tankard, and Franks played well; and for Royal-park, Nairn, Wickham, M'Lennan, Kirwan, and others did good service. Mr. J. Shaw was a satisfactory central umpire.

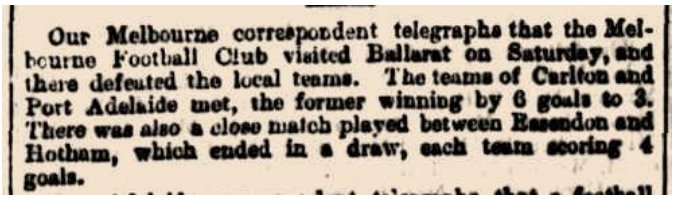
[290] FOOTBALL, The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria, Monday 14th May 1883, Page 7.
[291] FOOTBALL, The Argus, Melbourne, Monday 21st May 1883, Page 9.

In their match against Essendon, on Saturday 7th June 1883, and after their victory over Carlton FC , and with South Yarra FC defeating Essendon FC, the previous week, Hotham FC were expected to defeat Essendon. However, after Hotham had a very good first half, but went down by 3 goals: [292]



Hotham, after their Carlton victory and in the face of South Yarra having defeated Essendon, had good grounds for expecting to hold their own against the latter team on Saturday, but the Essendon players had evidently been reckoning that their defeats in the last two matches played would seriously disfigure the record for the first half of the season, and "wired in" with a will. The Hothamites played so well together during the first half that Essendon supporters began to look blue, but after the interval, and in teeming rain, the "red and black" champions took complete possession of the leather, and never gave their opponents half a chance to score, winning brilliantly with 3 goals to the good.

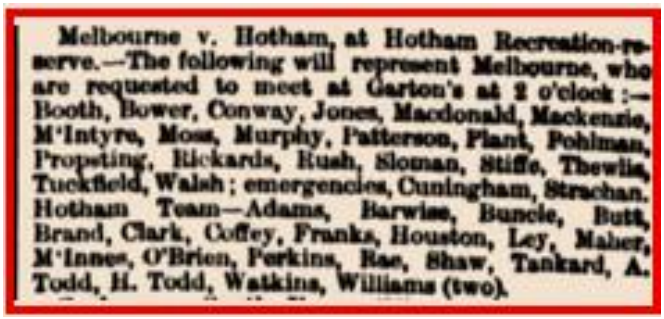
Reported in the Sydney Morning Herald five weeks later -on Saturday the 14th July 1883 - Hotham again took on Essendon Football Club with the game ending in a draw, 4 goals apiece: [293]



Our Melbourne correspondent telegraphs that the Melbourne Football Club visited Ballarat on Saturday, and there defeated the local teams. The teams of Carlton and Port Adelaide met, the former winning by 6 goals to 3. There was also a close match played between Essendon and Hotham, which ended in a draw, each team scoring 4 goals.

The last record found by the present author of Hotham 1883, inaugural full season playing their home games at the Hotham Recreational Reserve, colloquially referred to simply as "Arden Street Oval" was on Saturday the 18th August 1883. That day they played against Melbourne Football Club at Arden Street.

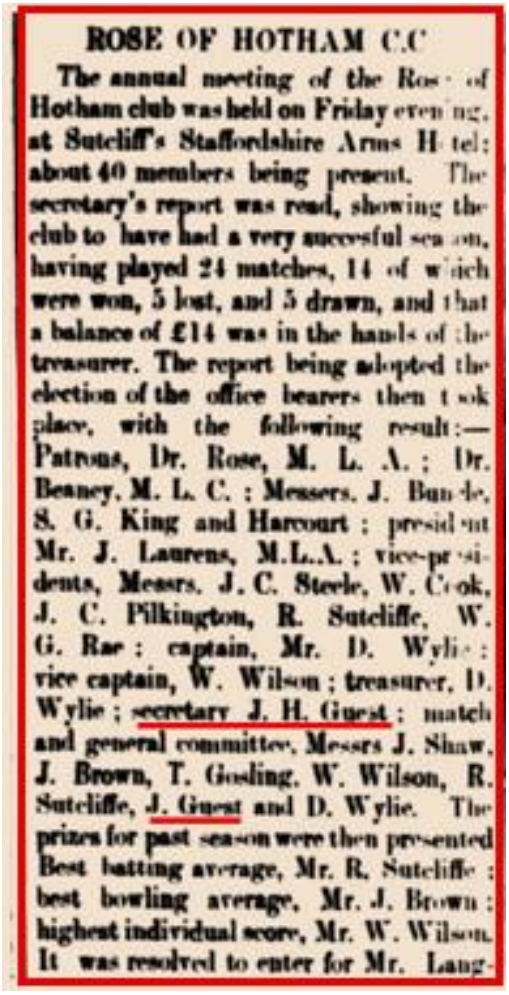
Useful is that players from both clubs were named to play that day with many now familiar names for the Hotham/North Melbourne Football Club of the earlier decade and prior to 1877. Hotham's named players that day were: Adams, J. Barwise,[294] Buncle, Butt, Brandt, Clark, Coffey, Franks, Houston, Ley, Maher, McInnes, O'Brien, Perkins, Rae, Shaw, Tankard, A. Todd, H. Todd, Watkins, Williams, Williams: [295]



Melbourne v. Hotham, at Hotham Recreation-reserve.—The following will represent Melbourne, who are requested to meet at Garton's at 2 o'clock:—Booth, Bower, Conway, Jones, Macdonald, Mackenzie, M'Intyre, Moss, Murphy, Patterson, Plant, Pohlman, Propsting, Rickards, Rush, Sloman, Stiffe, Thewlis, Tuckfield, Walsh; emergencies, Cuningham, Strachan. Hotham Team—Adams, Barwise, Buncle, Butt, Brand, Clark, Coffey, Franks, Houston, Ley, Maher, M'Innes, O'Brien, Perkins, Rae, Shaw, Tankard, A. Todd, H. Todd, Watkins, Williams (two).

[292] FOOTBALL GOSSIP, The Leader, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 9th June 1883, Page 20.
[293] FOOTBALL, The Sydney Morning Herald, NSW, Monday 16th July 1883, Page 6.
[294] Selby, I., 1924, p335, History of Melbourne – Revisited writes [*This John Barwise is assumed to be the son of John Barwise senior. The latter ...*], "John Barwise was called the father of North Melbourne Town Council. His son says that he spent forty years in municipal life and for a time he was Mayor of Hotham [*mine*].
[295] FOOTBALL, The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 18th August 1883, Page 10.

On Friday 14th September 1883, the author's grand uncle, Jack Guest (1862-1922), [296]held the position of secretary for the Hotham Cricket Club.[297] This was a pivotal time for the North Melbourne club as it underwent a social and geographical reunion into a "one-club" under the management of the football team, at Hotham Recreational Reserve, also known as Arden Street Oval:



ROSE OF HOTHAM C.C

The annual meeting of the Rose of Hotham club was held on Friday evening, at Sutcliff's Staffordshire Arms Hotel; about 40 members being present. The secretary's report was read, showing the club to have had a very successful season, having played 24 matches, 14 of which were won, 5 lost, and 5 drawn, and that a balance of £14 was in the hands of the treasurer. The report being adopted the election of the office bearers then took place, with the following result:— Patrons, Dr. Rose, M. L. A.; Dr. Beaney, M. L. C.; Messers. J. Bundle, S. G. King and Harcourt; president Mr. J. Laurens, M.L.A.; vice-presidents, Messrs. J. C. Steele, W. Cook, J. C. Pilkington, R. Sutcliffe, W. G. Rae; captain, Mr. D. Wylie; vice captain, W. Wilson; treasurer, D. Wylie; secretary J. H. Guest; match and general committee, Messrs J. Shaw, J. Brown, T. Gosling, W. Wilson, R. Sutcliffe, J. Guest and D. Wylie. The prizes for past season were then presented Best batting average, Mr. R. Sutcliffe; best bowling average, Mr. J. Brown; highest individual score, Mr. W. Wilson. It was resolved to enter for Mr. Lang-

He did this side-by-side with his older brother Will Guest, both of whom remained largely unrecognised in the club's history. They played a significant role nevertheless, in facilitating this reunification and fostering camaraderie between the cricketers and footballers after a challenging period of separation within the North Melbourne Club since 1868.

Jack Guest , Secretary of the Hotham Cricket Club in 1883 succeeded T.S. Marshall. Jack was also a member of the match committee suggesting he was also a player for the cricket club. Brother Will Guest, known also as Mr. W.L. Guest was elected to the post of treasurer of the controlling entity, [298] [299]Hotham Football Club, and becoming also the club's VFA delegate for the North Melbourne Football Club [H.F.C].

[296] Born John Henry Guest 1862-1922 married to Annie Caroiline Guest 1868-1922, nee Allison of the Allison funeral dynasty family of North Melbourne.

[297] ROSE OF HOTHAM C.C, North Melbourne Advertiser, Victoria, Friday 21st September 1883, Page 3.

[298] NORTH MELBOURNE FOOTBALL CLUB RIGHTS TO ARDEN STREET OVAL, The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria, Wednesday 29th July 1936, Page 12.

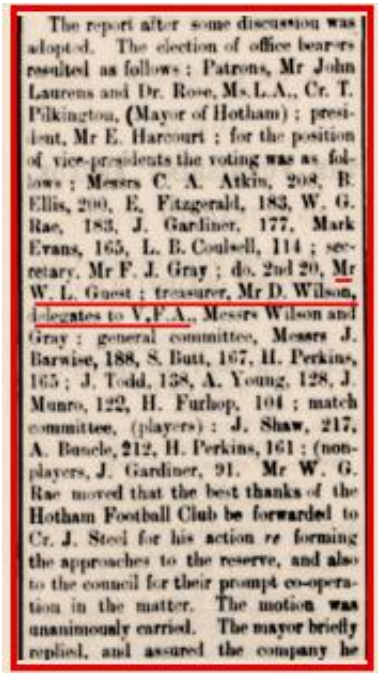
[299] "Law.com Law Dictionary *–in loco parentis,*" see Law.com.

1884

Will Guest's election as club treasurer and VFA delegate

About six months later on April 4th 1884, the North Melbourne Advertiser reported on the football club's public presentation of its annual during the AGM, confirming Will Guest's election as treasurer and V.F.A delegate for the club.

Additionally, many of the previously listed names associated with both the cricket and football sporting divisions within the North Melbourne club are noted in the Cricket's club's AGM in September 1883 annual general meeting of the football club shown below: [300]



The report after some discussion was adopted. The election of office bearers resulted as follows: Patrons, Mr John Laurens and Dr. Rose, M.L.A., Cr. T. Pilkington, (Mayor of Hotham); president, Mr E. Harcourt; for the position of vice-presidents the voting was as follows: Messrs C. A. Atkin, 208, B. Ellis, 200, E. Fitzgerald, 183, W. G. Rae, 183, J. Gardiner, 177, Mark Evans, 165, L. B. Coulsell, 114; secretary, Mr F. J. Gray; do. 2nd 20, Mr W. L. Guest; treasurer, Mr D. Wilson, delegates to V.F.A., Messrs Wilson and Gray; general committee, Messrs J. Barwise, 188, S. Butt, 167, H. Perkins, 165; J. Todd, 138, A. Young, 128, J. Munro, 122, H. Furlop, 104; match committee, (players): J. Shaw, 217, A. Buncle, 212, H. Perkins, 161; (non-players, J. Gardiner, 91. Mr W. G. Rae moved that the best thanks of the Hotham Football Club be forwarded to Cr. J. Steel for his action *re* forming the approaches to the reserve, and also to the council for their prompt co-operation in the matter. The motion was unanimously carried. The mayor briefly replied, and assured the company he

Named specifically above are many senior office bearers of the North Melbourne Football Club of the period, player and also patrons, many previously cited and continue to be involved post 1884-1889, namely: Mr. E. Harcourt, President; Vice Presidents – Messrs C.A. Atkin, B. Ellis, E. Fitzgerald, W.G. Rae, J. [H]. Gardner,[301] Mark Evans, L.B Coulsell; Secretary – Mr. F. Gray; Treasurer – Mr W.L. Guest and delegate to the VFA; General committee members: Messrs J. Barwise junior , S. Butt, H. Perkins, J. Todd, A. Young, J. Munro, H. Fuhrhop; Match Committee- (players): J. Shaw, A. Buncle, H. Perkins; (non-players) – J. [H]. Gardiner.

Continued …

[300] FOOTBALL, HOTHAM FOOTBALLCLUB AGM, Mr. W. L. Guest [Mr. William Langford Guest/Will Guest] elected treasurer and VFA delegate, North Melbourne Advertiser, Victoria, Friday 4th April 1884, Page 3. Trove: https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/66160068.

[301] Selby, I., 1924, p148, History of Melbourne – Revisited – "*The father of J. H. Gardiner, the perambulator maker, in Hotham, was the founder of that industry in Melbourne. J. H. Gardiner was councillor when the Cemetery agitation was on. He has since passed away. At that time there were two Gardiners in the council, one representing Carlton and the other North Melbourne I jocularly suggested that J. H. Gardiner voted with those who would destroy the Cemetery, because he saw so many of his perambulators drawn up before the market. The mothers go to market with perambulators, and wheel the produce home; surely the better way would be for the merchants to distribute it by motor car."*

Perkins, Rigg, Franks, E. Young, Maher, Buncle, Ley, and M'Innes, 1 each.

As will be seen by the above results, we are not very forward on the list of successful clubs, yet it must be universally admitted that the play of our representatives was deserving of a much better position.

It is very gratifying to your committee to be able to state that during the past season we scored a victory over our old rivals, the Carlton,—a result never before achieved by our club.

Your committee and a few gentlemen admirers during the past season had the pleasure of presenting to Mr. Tankard a testimonial on behalf of the club, while wedding presents were made to Messrs. Brandt and Pullen, your committee thinking the respective events suitable times to offer a slight acknowledgment of the valuable services rendered by them to the club.

Donations amounting to £35 were passed and forwarded by your committee, as follows: L21 to the Hotham Recreation reserve, L5 5s towards Geo. Coulthard's Fund, L3 3s towards Hotham Handicap, L2 2s towards the North Park Football Club, and L3 10s to Williamstown Football Club.

Medals had been promised by supporters of the club to the three best players in 1st 20, but your committee regret to state that only one is forthcoming, and that has been awarded to Mr Barwise, and a special prize has been awarded to Mr J. Shaw, your committee being of opinion that the play of these gentlemen during the past season justifies them in making the above awards; but, at the same time Messrs. H. Perkins,

Continued …

Franks, Butt, Tankard, H. and A. Todd, J. Rae, Houston, Brandt, Ley, Bancle and Clark, are deserving of great praise for the manner in which they tried to uphold the reputation of the club in the football field.

Your committee are sorry to state [illegible] nation as secretary to the club, which was received with regret, and a vote of thanks was tendered him for past services. Mr F. J. Gray was elected in his stead.

In conclusion, your committee desire to thank those who have seconded their efforts to promote the general welfare of the club, as no doubt through their exertions the number of members has been greatly increased, and with a view to incur success in the coming and future seasons would respectfully urge all members to use their influence in furthering ing the club's interest.

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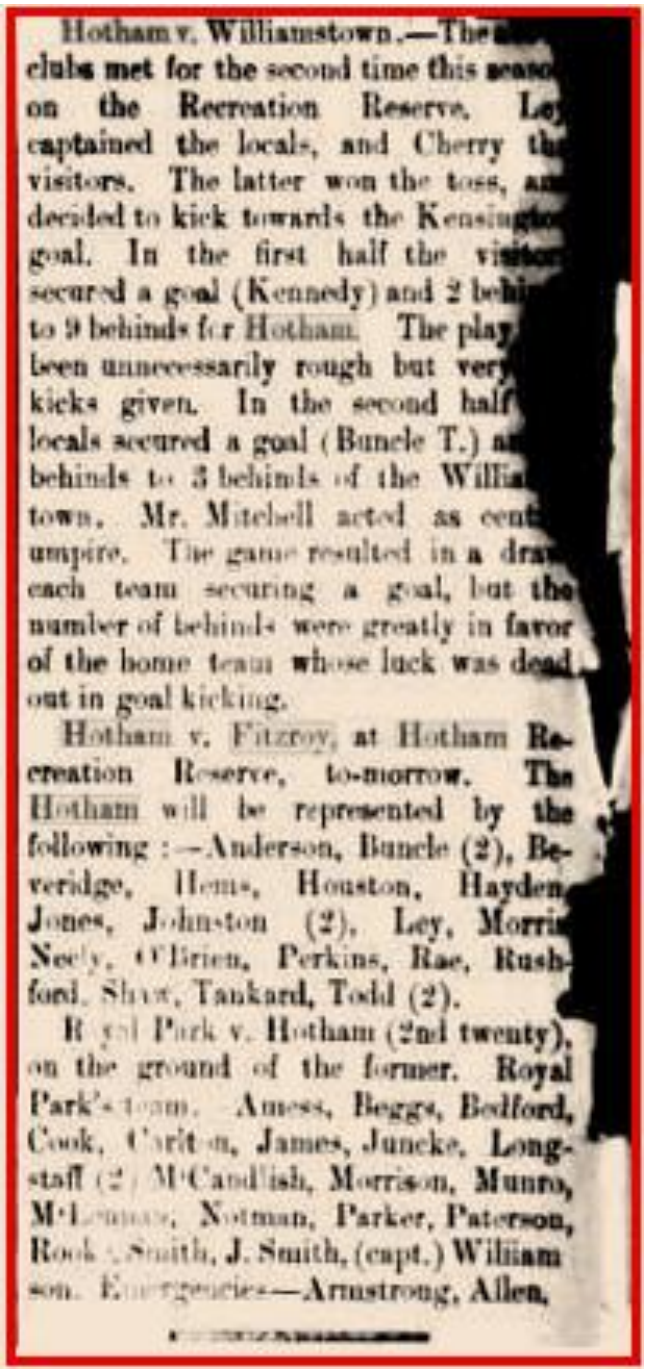
Captured below are names of players coming under notice for North as Hotham Football Club in their game against Williamstown in Hotham on Saturday August 16th 1884. Also featured in the column are the names of players picked to play against Fitzroy Football Club on Saturday 23rd August 1994 also scheduled to be played in Hotham Recreational Reserve: [302]



Hotham v. Williamstown.—The
clubs met for the second time this seas
on the Recreation Reserve. Le
captained the locals, and Cherry th
visitors. The latter won the toss, an
decided to kick towards the Kensingto
goal. In the first half the visito
secured a goal (Kennedy) and 2 behi
to 9 behinds for Hotham. The play
been unnecessarily rough but very
kicks given. In the second half
locals secured a goal (Buncle T.) a
behinds to 3 behinds of the Willia
town. Mr. Mitchell acted as cent
umpire. The game resulted in a dra
each team securing a goal, but the
number of behinds were greatly in favor
of the home team whose luck was dead
out in goal kicking.

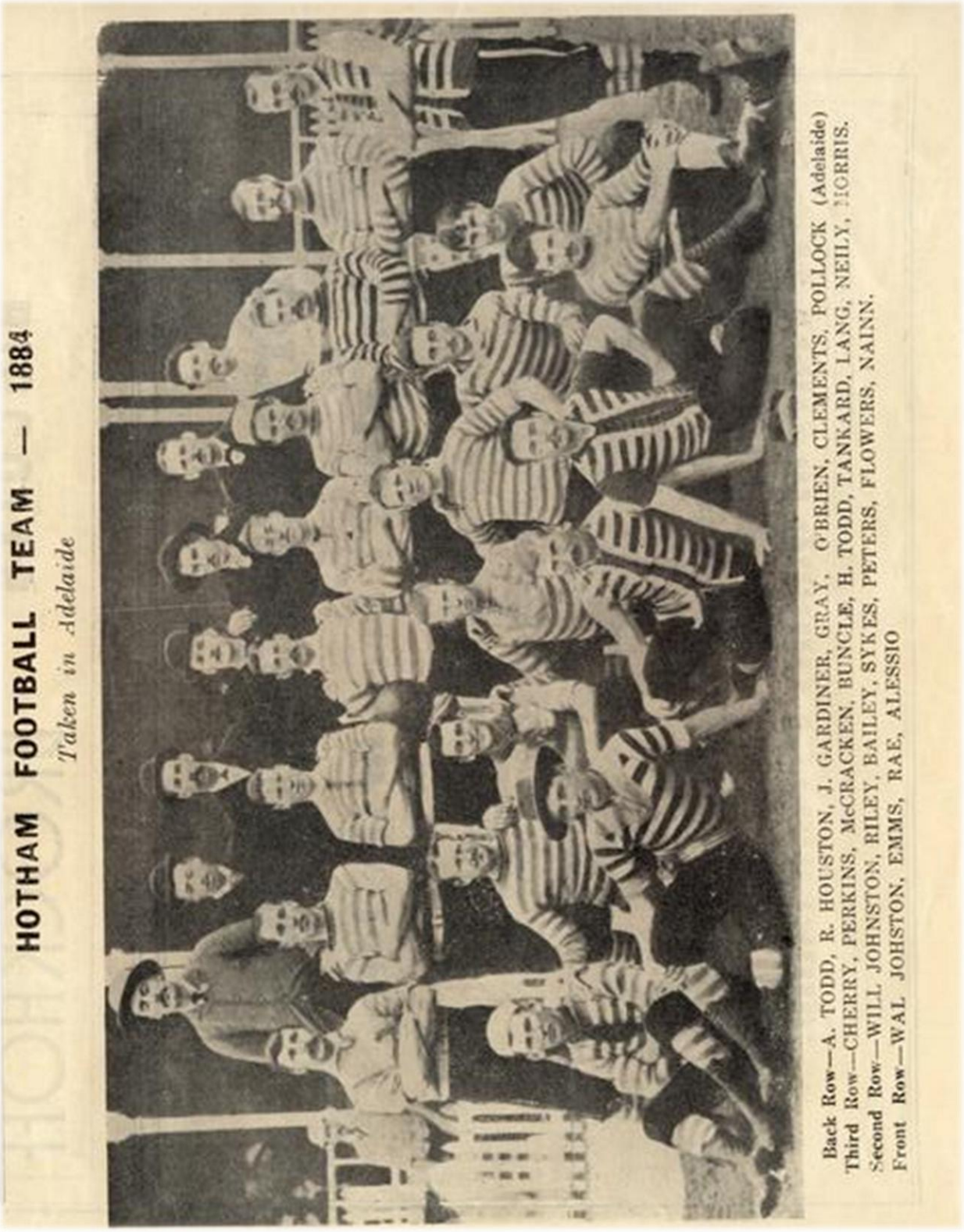
Hotham v. Fitzroy, at Hotham Re-
creation Reserve, to-morrow. The
Hotham will be represented by the
following :—Anderson, Buncle (2), Be-
veridge, Hems, Houston, Hayden
Jones, Johnston (2), Ley, Morri
Neely, O'Brien, Perkins, Rae, Rush-
ford, Shaw, Tankard, Todd (2).

Royal Park v. Hotham (2nd twenty),
on the ground of the former. Royal
Park's team. Amess, Beggs, Bedford,
Cook, Carlton, James, Juncke, Long-
staff (2), M'Candlish, Morrison, Munro,
M'Lennan, Notman, Parker, Paterson,
Rock, Smith, J. Smith, (capt.) William
son. Emergencies—Armstrong, Allen,

The so listed first-20 players for Hotham taking to the field against Fitzroy were: Anderson, A. Buncle, T. Buncle, Beveridge, H. Hems, R.S. Houston, Hayden, Jones, Will Johnston, Wal Johnston, Ley, Morris, Neely, O'Brien, Perkins, Rae, Rushford, Shaw Tankard, A. Todd, H. Todd.

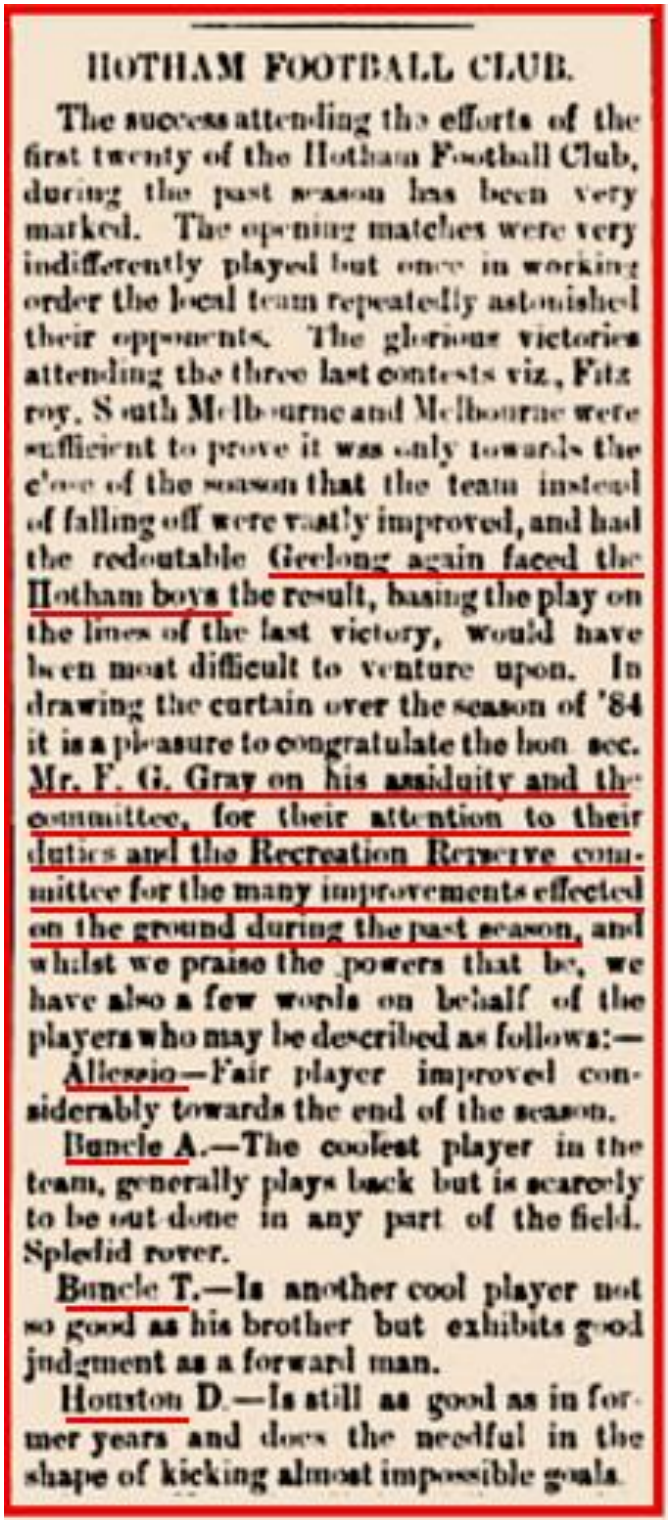
[302] HOTHAM V WILLIAMSTOWN; HOTHAM V FITZROY, AND ROYAL PARK V HOTHAM (2ND TWENTY), North Melbourne Advertiser, Victoria, Friday 22nd August 1884, Page 2.

The first-20 team is pictured below after an inter-colonial match played in Adelaide in 1884 whereby the wore the old belt-to-belt Guernsey, not worn since they dropped the hoops when they joined the VFA in 1877:[303]


HOTHAM FOOTBALL TEAM — 1884
Taken in Adelaide
Back Row—A. TODD, R. HOUSTON, J. GARDINER, GRAY, O'BRIEN, CLEMENTS, POLLOCK (Adelaide)
Third Row—CHERRY, PERKINS, McCRACKEN, BUNCLE, H. TODD, TANKARD, LANG, NEILY, MORRIS.
Second Row—WILL JOHNSTON, RILEY, BAILEY, SYKES, PETERS, FLOWERS, NAINN.
Front Row—WAL JOHSTON, EMMS, RAE, ALESSIO

[303] This club photograph is considered to be correctly attributed to year and players listed. The horizontal "belt-to-belt" guernsey remained from 1876 until 1886 when the horizontal stripes were adopted.

Most unusually a performance profile for many of the first-20 players for the Hotham Football Club in 1884 which was published in the North Melbourne Advertiser. The publication provides for a rare glimpse into the football playing reputation of those named players of North Melbourne come Hotham: [304]



HOTHAM FOOTBALL CLUB.

The success attending the efforts of the first twenty of the Hotham Football Club, during the past season has been very marked. The opening matches were very indifferently played but once in working order the local team repeatedly astonished their opponents. The glorious victories attending the three last contests viz., Fitzroy, South Melbourne and Melbourne were sufficient to prove it was only towards the close of the season that the team instead of falling off were vastly improved, and had the redoutable Geelong again faced the Hotham boys the result, basing the play on the lines of the last victory, would have been most difficult to venture upon. In drawing the curtain over the season of '84 it is a pleasure to congratulate the hon sec. Mr. F. G. Gray on his assiduity and the committee, for their attention to their duties and the Recreation Reserve committee for the many improvements effected on the ground during the past season, and whilst we praise the powers that be, we have also a few words on behalf of the players who may be described as follows:—

Allessio—Fair player improved considerably towards the end of the season.

Buncle A.—The coolest player in the team, generally plays back but is scarcely to be out-done in any part of the field. Splelid rover.

Buncle T.—Is another cool player not so good as his brother but exhibits good judgment as a forward man.

Houston D.—Is still as good as in former years and does the needful in the shape of kicking almost impossible goals.

Continued …

[304] HOTHAM FOOTBALL CLUB, North Melbourne Advertiser, Victoria, Friday 10th October 1884, Page 3.

Hems H.—The little follower, has played in nearly all matches this season and bids fair to be one of the best followers in the colony.

Johnston Walter—The little wonder, generally plays back and defends goal like a Trojan.

Johnston William—Although not such a star as his brother, is undoubtedly a good man and a fine change follower.

Jones J.—Plays with his whole heart and soul, very good-natured, fast and next year should be an acquisition.

Ley A.—The captain, handles his men well and has rendered the club good service throughout the year by some excellent runs. A reliable mark and good kick.

Long A.—A good place man has improved considerably this season and should next year be a good player in any position, fine long kick.

Morris J.—Was drafted out of second twenty, is a good player and with practice bids fair to out-do Keeley the crack follower, has a rather quick temper.

Neely A.—Has fallen off considerably but is still a good kick, left the team for a season but returned to his old love during the present year.

O'Brien—(Vice capt.) retired late in the season after having done good work and is now content with being a "barracker."

Tankard J.—Cannot be surpassed as a follower, has the best of tempers, is a general favorite, and is noted all over the colony for his fair play, and admirable marking ability.

Todd H.—The finest forward in the colony, generally kicks from 60 to 70 yards either place or drop, and has netted the highest number of goals for his side this season, is a fine specimen of an athlete.

Todd A.—Is another splendid kick, but has fallen off considerably. He is not such a good all round player as his brother, but is very dangerous when he gets the ball at about 70 yards from goal.

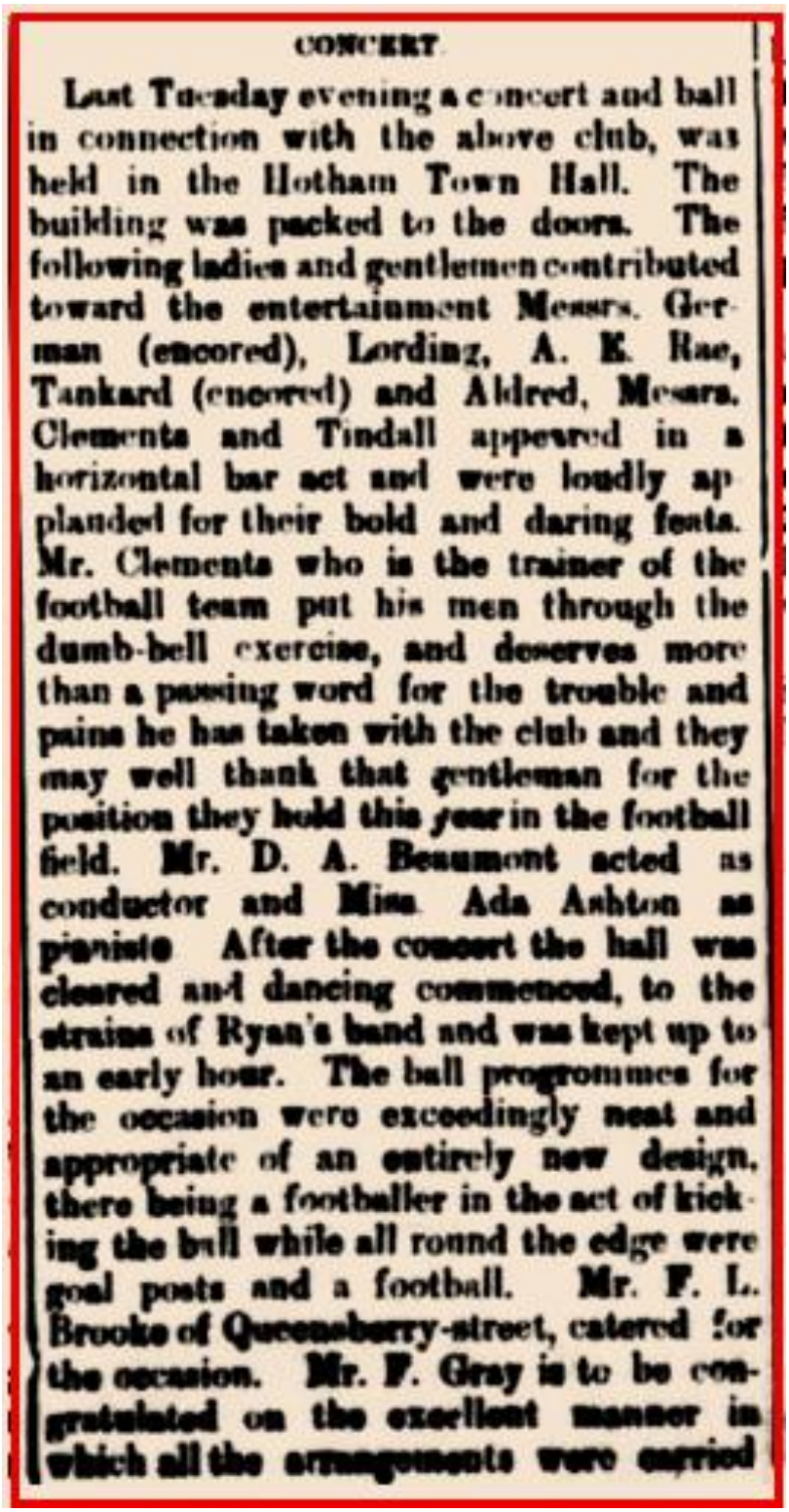
Perkins H.—Is a sticker either as a place man or follower and has done good service for the blue and white's during season 1884. Was prevented through illness in taking part in all the matches.

Rae J.—Generally plays on the right wing, kicks either foot, but through injuries did not play in the latter end of season.

Rushford J.—Capital dodger very fleet of foot, kicks with left foot judging from this, his first year in a senior he promises to be one of the foremost players next year.

Shaw J.—The veteran follower, has still a good deal of pluck left, and is one of the hardest working players of the team.

Also published in the same newspaper that day also on page 3, an excellent account of the club's first annual concert and ball was reported in detail not seen before giving a very good account of club members by their first names in particular the first-20 players. [305] [306]



CONCERT.

Last Tuesday evening a concert and ball in connection with the above club, was held in the Hotham Town Hall. The building was packed to the doors. The following ladies and gentlemen contributed toward the entertainment Messrs. German (encored), Lording, A. E. Rae, Tankard (encored) and Aldred, Messrs. Clements and Tindall appeared in a horizontal bar act and were loudly applauded for their bold and daring feats. Mr. Clements who is the trainer of the football team put his men through the dumb-bell exercise, and deserves more than a passing word for the trouble and pains he has taken with the club and they may well thank that gentleman for the position they hold this year in the football field. Mr. D. A. Beaumont acted as conductor and Miss Ada Ashton as pianiste After the concert the hall was cleared and dancing commenced, to the strains of Ryan's band and was kept up to an early hour. The ball programmes for the occasion were exceedingly neat and appropriate of an entirely new design, there being a footballer in the act of kicking the ball while all round the edge were goal posts and a football. Mr. F. L. Brooke of Queensberry-street, catered for the occasion. Mr. F. Gray is to be congratulated on the excellent manner in which all the arrangements were carried

Continued …

[305] CONCERT, North Melbourne Advertiser, Victoria, Friday 10th October 1884, Page 3.

[306] The authors believe the newspaper reported made an error in reporting the date of the concert. Out by a week or so. Given the level of detail, the draft article may have been pushed back a week.

out. The following local song composed by Mr. J. M'Indoe, was sung at the conclusion of the programme by Mr. A. E. Re to the tune of the "Bobl G'en lermes," and as each players name was mentioned there was loud applause.

We've come before you all to-night,
To sing a verse or two;
About the local football club,
And about the members too.
So we ask you all to wish with us,
Success to the white and blue.
CHORUS—Or we'll run you in &c.

We've got as good a team just now,
As any in the land;
For forwards and for followers,
The best we can command,
So come and watch our play each match,
Help us with your applause.

Dick Houston says the Hotham will
Be the premier team next year,
He says Geelong next season
We'll never need to fear;
Ley says we're Neely premiers now,
But we hav'nt got the luck.

Our Tankard will refresh us,
In the middle of our game,
While Harry Todd at 80 yards,
A goal adds to his name,
Our followers they watch them,
And Hems them all round.

Where can you find a man that can
Like Johnston save a goal.
While Alfred Buncle at his side
'Tis hard to get a goal.
Let the enemy turn on every side,
They'll find good men 'and true.

To the Secretary of the club,
We will a tribute pay;
He must be treated with respect,
Because you know he's Gray.
He says that he will keep his post,
And work hard for the club.

We hope next year our football club,
Will further laurels gain,
We'll strive to gain the premiership
With all our might and main.
In thanking you once more kind friends,
We trust you'll help us too.

We ask you in conclusion,
To join our club next year,
To our treasurer Davy Wilson,
We hope you all will steer.
He will not shun you I be bound,
Your name he will enroll.

The three brothers, Will, Jack, and Archie Guest, who all played for North, are the sons of John Kidd Guest (1831-1871), who has been associated with the club since 1858 and until his death in 1871. Their years are as follows: Will (1860-1922), Jack Guest (1882-1922), and Archie Guest (1866-1932).

Will, whose full name is William Langford Guest, is featured below, in an article confirming his election as the football club's treasurer and VFA delegate on March 28, 1884: [307] [308]

William Langford Guest 1862-1922
North Melbourne Football Club, Player, Club Treasurer 1884-1885 & VFA Delegate

FOOTBALL.

HOTHAM F. C.

The annual meeting of the Hotham Football Club was held in the U.F.S. Hall, last Thursday evening. About 500 persons attended. The Mayor, (Cr. T. Pilkington) presided. The secretary (Mr F. J. Gray) read the following report :—

Your committee have much pleasure in presenting their report for the season ending 1883.

On referring to the balance sheet it will be seen that the receipts amounted to £264 16s 10d, and the expenditure £261 19s 1d, thus leaving a balance of £2 17s 9d in hand. In addition to this the committee of the Hotham Recreation reserve are indebted to us in the sum of £21 1s 5d made up as follows—£10 being a loan to them, and £15 1s 5d, share of matches played in their reserve against the following clubs : North Park, Williamstown, Essendon, Sandhurst, Melbourne, and South Melbourne, but against this there are outstanding accounts amounting to £14 1s 6d. No doubt the receipts would have been much larger but for the inclemency of the weather, as all the principal matches on the reserve, with only one exception, were played in the rain, thus causing a a sparse attendance, which materially affected the takings.

The 1st 20 have during the past season played 22 matches, winning 7, losing 7, and 8 were drawn, the number of goals kicked being 56 for and 53 against us. The successful goal-kickers being ; H. and A. Todd, 10 each ; B. Clark 5 ; J. Rae, J. Shaw, E. O'Brien, and A. Young, 4 each ; J. Tankard and R. Houston, 3 each ; and Messrs Coffey,

The report after some discussion was adopted. The election of office bearers resulted as follows : Patrons, Mr John Laurens and Dr. Rose, M.s L.A., Cr. T. Pilkington, (Mayor of Hotham) ; president, Mr E. Harcourt ; for the position of vice-presidents the voting was as follows ; Messrs C. A. Atkin, 208, B. Ellis, 200, E. Fitzgerald, 183, W. G. Rae, 183, J. Gardiner, 177, Mark Evans, 165, L. B. Coulsell, 114 ; secretary, Mr F. J. Gray ; do. 2nd 20, Mr W. L. Guest ; treasurer, Mr D. Wilson, delegates to V.F.A., Messrs Wilson and Gray ; general committee, Messrs J. Barwise, 188, S. Butt, 167, H. Perkins, 165 ; J. Todd, 138, A. Young, 128, J. Munro, 122, H. Furlop, 104 ; match committee, (players) : J. Shaw, 217, A. Bancle, 212, H. Perkins, 161 ; (non-players, J. Gardiner, 91. Mr W. G. Rae moved that the best thanks of the Hotham Football Club be forwarded to Cr. J. Steel for his action *re* forming the approaches to the reserve, and also to the council for their prompt co-operation in the matter. The motion was unanimously carried. The mayor briefly replied, and assured the company he

[307] Hotham Football Club 1884 Annual General Meeting, and 1883 Annual Report, Wednesday [Evening] 28th March 1884, at UFA Hall [Queensberry Street, North Melbourne, in FOOTBALL, North Melbourne Advertiser, Victoria, Friday 4th April 1884, Page 3.

[308] Player, Mr. Barwise awarded as it seems the Clubs best and fairest award for the first-20 team in 1884 and runner up, Mr. J. Shaw (2nd best and fairest or its equivalent).

Brother Jack Guest, who led North to its first premiership success with the club's second-20 winning back-to-back VFA premierships in 1886 and 1887. He also served as the coach for the seconds in 1888. He served as the seconds coach in 1888 and was elected secretary of the Hotham Cricket Club in 1882/83. Along with brother Will, he helped re-integrate the club with the football club, which its assets, including Arden Street Oval, from 1882/83 to 1885. [309] [310] [311][312]

John "Jack" Henry Guest 1862-1922
NMFC second-20 premiership coach 1886-1887 & Secretary
North Melbourne Cricket Club 1882-1883

Will and Jack's younger brother, Archie Guest (1866-1932) began playing for North's third-20 open age football team, known as Courtney United against North's second twenty squad on Saturday 19th July 1884.

Courtney United [313] The team started as a pop-up group known as Hotham Hill in 1877, likely named in honour of St Mary's school and their original home ground, Graham's Paddock on Hotham Hill. As previously mentioned, the formation of the team was a to the increasing demand for local players seeking a pathway to the North-20 and First-20 teams.

This need was particularly evident among young athletes transitioning from St. Mary's Church of England (Anglican) School Football Club, Parkside School, and other nearby institutions including St. Mary's of the Sea Catholic School.

The local boys were eager to represent their team, North. This third team was in mainly created in response to the increasing number of local children joining the club, a trend initiated by the club's St Mary's Church of England School Football Club recruitment program that began in 1869 and gained traction during the crisis year of 1876. [314] [315]

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[309] "Hotham Football Club," North Melbourne Advertiser, 21st May 1886. Page 3.
[310] THE JUNIOR PREMIERSHIP, North Melbourne Advertiser, 1st October 1886, Page 3.
[311] FOOTBALL, North Melbourne Advertiser, Saturday 31st March 1888, Page 3, North Melbourne Football Club, Mr Guest, Secretary of the Second Twenty, premiers two years running.
[312] Refer also, The History of the North Melbourne Football Club, Footy Talk Online. https://footytalk.com.au/the-history-of-the-north-melbourne-football-club/.
[313] Refer also Courtney Football Club established by at least 1883; and fixtured to player other teams in the junior league, in Williamstown Advertiser, Victoria, Saturday 14th April 1883, Page 3, Football.
[314] Consultation with the Administrator (anonymous) St Mary's Anglican Parish, North Melbourne Anglican Parish, 2022.
[315] Dowling, G, 1997, "The North Story' NMFC.

Archie, aged 18 years in 1884 and playing against men perhaps for the first time, joined his brother at North after ending his underage football with St Mary's school football club and he and Tom "Dutchy" Peters played a lot of football together for North's third team and second before playing together at Williamstown. They and one of the two William brother crossed over to play with Williamstown in 1887. Archie is recorded playing for the senior first-20 team from 1887 to 1890: [316] [317]

Hotham, second twenty, v Courtney United on the Hotham Recreation Reserve Hotham team-- Alessio, Adams (vice), Bell, Beveridge, Brennan (capt.), Bradley, Crosbie, Chandler, Cook, (2), Devine, Gilchrist, Hall, Haydon, Lanergan, Morewood, M'Carthy, M'Intosh, Rojo, Robertson, Sayers, Stevens. Courtney United team :—Herriot (2), Culhane, Doran, Dixon, Daw, Gardiner, Guest, Hagin, Hodges Lonsmey Medley, Peters, Roberts, Shaw, Tooley, Wells, Wilson, Williams (2).

Archie Guest 1866-1932, NMFC, Second-20, Premiership Player, 1886

Archie Guest 1866-1932, Jeparit, 1912

Left to right, father Archie Guest aged 52 years, Cliff aged 2 years, Percy aged 4 ½, baby Tilly aged 6-8 month being held by mother Florence, age 29 years

[316] Hotham, Second Twenty v Courtney United, "Guest" picked to play for Courtney United. 1890, North Melbourne Advertiser, FOOTBALL.

[317] ATHELETIC SPORTS, FOOTBALL, HOTHAM SECOND TWENTY v COURTNEY UNITED, Player, "Guest A," The Herald, Melbourne, Victoria, Friday 18th July 1884, Page 4.

1885

Throughout 1884-5 and until settled, debate raged among the people of Hotham on whether or not the town and no doubt the football club should revert back to its original North Melbourne name: [318]

THE ADVERTISER

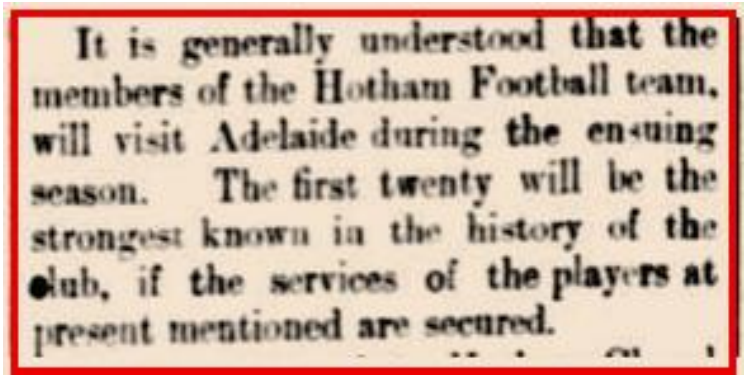
"INDEPENDENT."

FRIDAY JANUARY 30 1885.

HOTHAM OR NORTH MELBOURNE.

The notice of motion moved by Cr. Laurens at the last meeting of the Town Council "on the desirableness of altering the name of the Town of Hotham to that of North Melbourne" will no doubt give rise to considerable discussion amongst the burgesses and residents of the town. What's in a name? is a question that has often been asked, but we think on the occasion under notice the enquiry is most apropos, and the answer is well worthy the consideration of all in the municipality. It is for the ratepayers to decide whether the town shall be called by its present appellation or that of North Melbourne and to assist them in their deliberations we shall briefly point out why, in our opinion, it is high time that the name of Hotham should be erased the escutcheon, and that of North Melbourne substituted. We quite

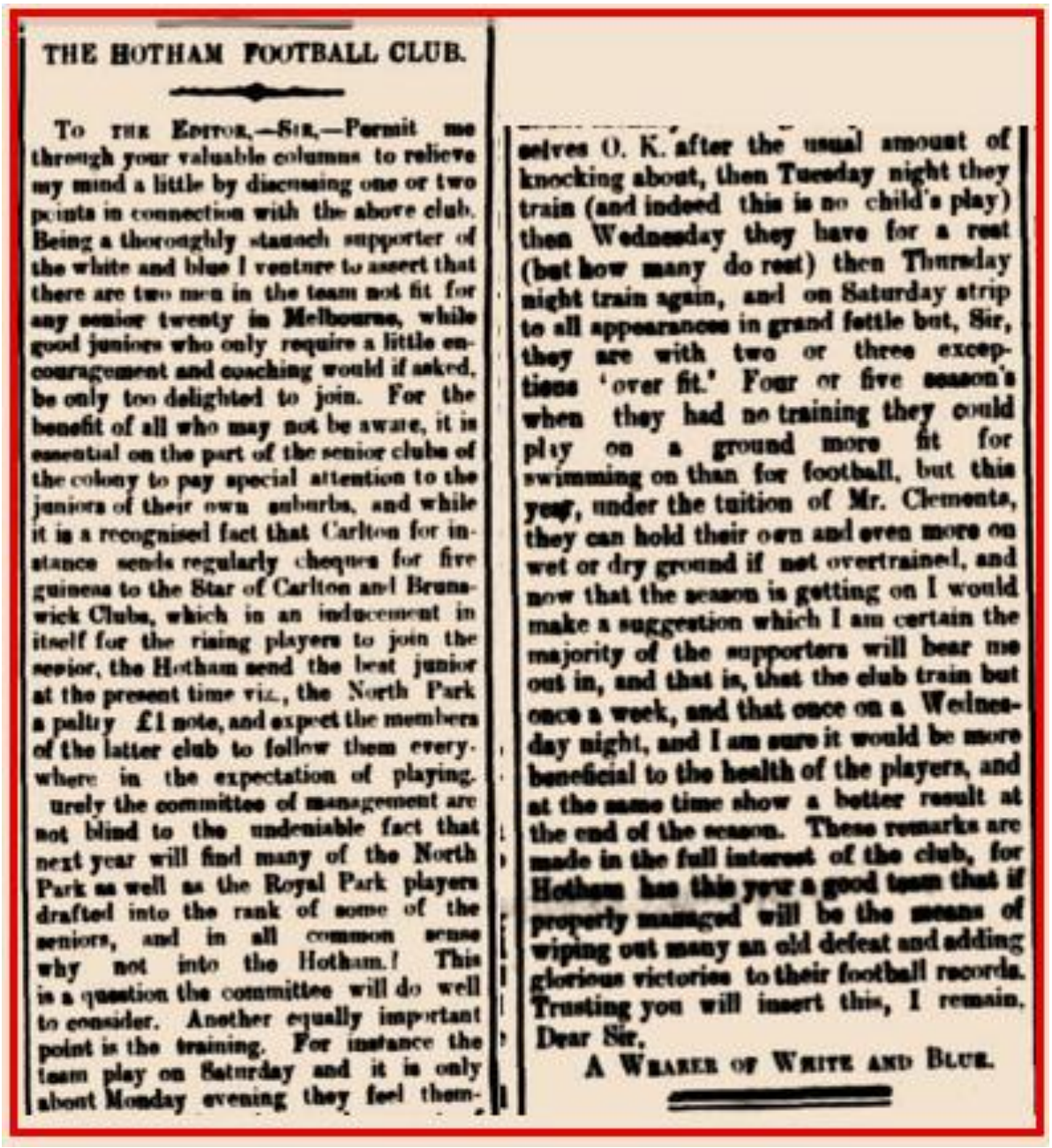
Also captured from newspapers earlier that year was the club's mooted visit to Adelaide to play a short series of friendly matches against senior South Australian clubs: [319]



It is generally understood that the members of the Hotham Football team, will visit Adelaide during the ensuing season. The first twenty will be the strongest known in the history of the club, if the services of the players at present mentioned are secured.

[318] North Melbourne Advertiser, Victoria, Friday 30th January 1885, Page 2-3, THE ADVERTISER.
[319] North Melbourne Advertiser, Victoria, Friday 30th January 1885, Page 3, THE ADVERTISER.

On June 19, 1885, a person known as the "Wearer of White and Blue" felt compelled to reach out to the editor of the North Melbourne Advertiser. He expressed worries regarding the club's insufficient recruitment efforts and the training techniques used by senior coach Mr. John Clements. The writer highlighted that Hotham's financial support for the Royal Park Junior Football Club was considerably less than Carlton's contributions to their local junior clubs, which negatively impacted the number of youths to go on to play for North: [320]



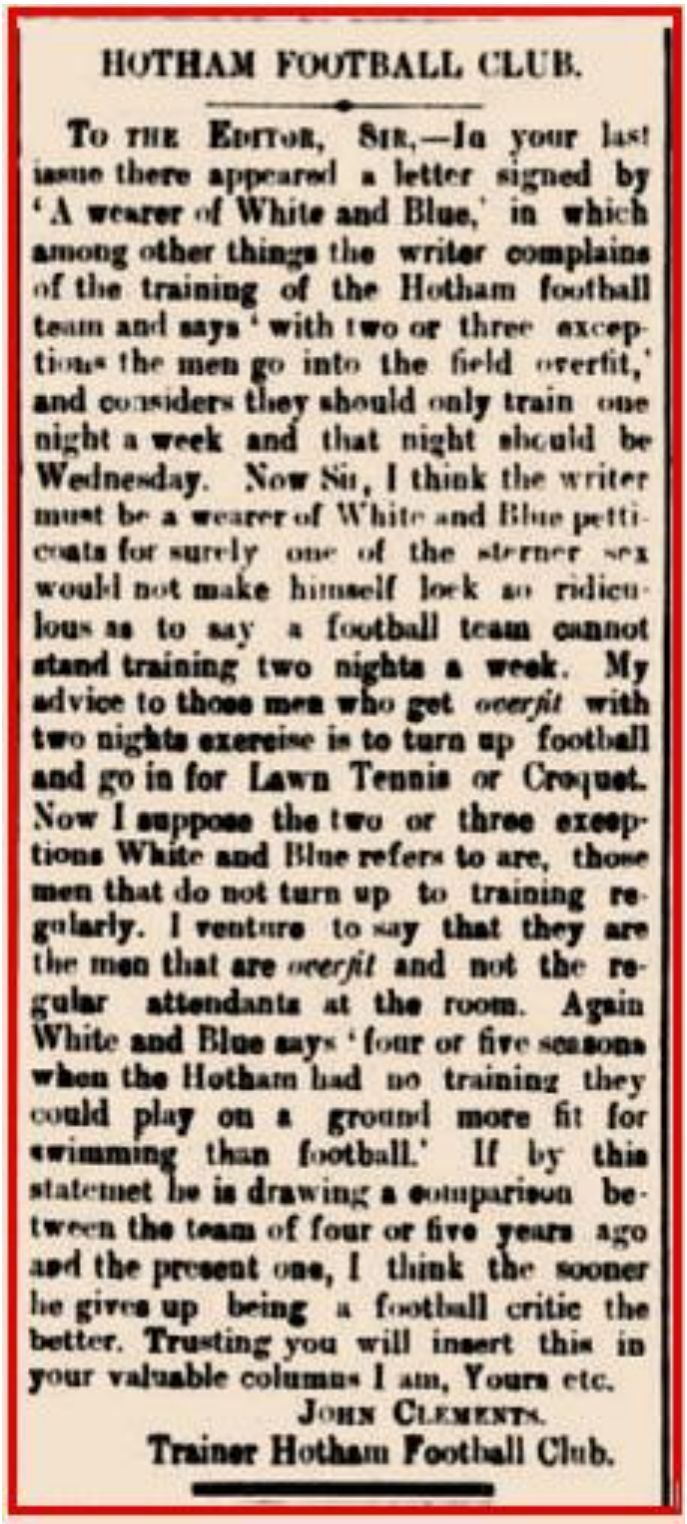
THE HOTHAM FOOTBALL CLUB.

To the Editor.—Sir,—Permit me through your valuable columns to relieve my mind a little by discussing one or two points in connection with the above club. Being a thoroughly staunch supporter of the white and blue I venture to assert that there are two men in the team not fit for any senior twenty in Melbourne, while good juniors who only require a little encouragement and coaching would if asked, be only too delighted to join. For the benefit of all who may not be aware, it is essential on the part of the senior clubs of the colony to pay special attention to the juniors of their own suburbs, and while it is a recognised fact that Carlton for instance sends regularly cheques for five guineas to the Star of Carlton and Brunswick Clubs, which in an inducement in itself for the rising players to join the senior, the Hotham send the best junior at the present time viz., the North Park a paltry £1 note, and expect the members of the latter club to follow them everywhere in the expectation of playing. Surely the committee of management are not blind to the undeniable fact that next year will find many of the North Park as well as the Royal Park players drafted into the rank of some of the seniors, and in all common sense why not into the Hotham! This is a question the committee will do well to consider. Another equally important point is the training. For instance the team play on Saturday and it is only about Monday evening they feel themselves O. K. after the usual amount of knocking about, then Tuesday night they train (and indeed this is no child's play) then Wednesday they have for a rest (but how many do rest) then Thursday night train again, and on Saturday strip to all appearances in grand fettle but, Sir, they are with two or three exceptions 'over fit.' Four or five season's when they had no training they could play on a ground more fit for swimming on than for football, but this year, under the tuition of Mr. Clements, they can hold their own and even more on wet or dry ground if not overtrained, and now that the season is getting on I would make a suggestion which I am certain the majority of the supporters will bear me out in, and that is, that the club train but once a week, and that once on a Wednesday night, and I am sure it would be more beneficial to the health of the players, and at the same time show a better result at the end of the season. These remarks are made in the full interest of the club, for Hotham has this year a good team that if properly managed will be the means of wiping out many an old defeat and adding glorious victories to their football records. Trusting you will insert this, I remain, Dear Sir,

A Wearer of White and Blue.

[320] Mr. Clements taken to be the coach of North's first-20 team in 1884 and 1885, see: HOTHAM FOOTBALL CLUB, North Melbourne Advertiser, Victoria, Friday 19th June 1885, Page 3; c.f., CONCERT, North Melbourne Advertiser, Victoria, Friday 10th October 1884, Page 3.

In response, Clements addressed the "Wearer of White and Blue" regarding the criticism of Hotham players for being "over-fit." His reply was straightforward and aimed to reassure readers that North is on the right path toward achieving success in the professional VFA competition: [321]



HOTHAM FOOTBALL CLUB.

To the Editor, Sir,—In your last issue there appeared a letter signed by 'A wearer of White and Blue,' in which among other things the writer complains of the training of the Hotham football team and says 'with two or three exceptions the men go into the field overfit,' and considers they should only train one night a week and that night should be Wednesday. Now Sir, I think the writer must be a wearer of White and Blue petticoats for surely one of the sterner sex would not make himself look so ridiculous as to say a football team cannot stand training two nights a week. My advice to those men who get *overfit* with two nights exercise is to turn up football and go in for Lawn Tennis or Croquet. Now I suppose the two or three exceptions White and Blue refers to are, those men that do not turn up to training regularly. I venture to say that they are the men that are *overfit* and not the regular attendants at the room. Again White and Blue says 'four or five seasons when the Hotham had no training they could play on a ground more fit for swimming than football.' If by this statemet he is drawing a comparison between the team of four or five years ago and the present one, I think the sooner he gives up being a football critic the better. Trusting you will insert this in your valuable columns I am, Yours etc.

John Clements.

Trainer Hotham Football Club.

[321] HOTHAM FOOTBALL CLUB North Melbourne Advertiser, Victoria, Friday 26th June 1885, Page 3, Mr John Clements, Trainer HFC, reply.

On Saturday 1st August 1885 at Williamstown, the present author's grand uncle, Will Guest, born William Langford Guest (1860-1922) is found lining up for NMFC second-20 team against Williamstown Junior Football Club: [322]

Fitzroy v. Essendon, on the East Melbourne Cricket Ground. The following will represent Fitzroy:—Beggs, Carroll, Cock, Elliott, Fitzpatrick, Heron, Harry, Kerrigan, Lindsay, Muir, M'Shane, Maher, Melling, Nathan, Rowe, Robertson, Rapiport, Shearwood, Taylor and Worrell. Members' tickets amit to stand.

Hotham, second twenty v Williamstown Juniors, at Williamstown. The following will represent Hotham, and are requested to meet at the North Melbourne station at half-past 2 o'clock:—Bradley (2), Carlton, Chapman, Doran, Dedassel, Guest, Greenwood, Gardiner (2), Halinbourg, Kelly, Moylan, M'Intosh, M'Innes, Nairn, Quested, Reynolds, Shaw, Stewart, Suares, Taylor, and Williams.

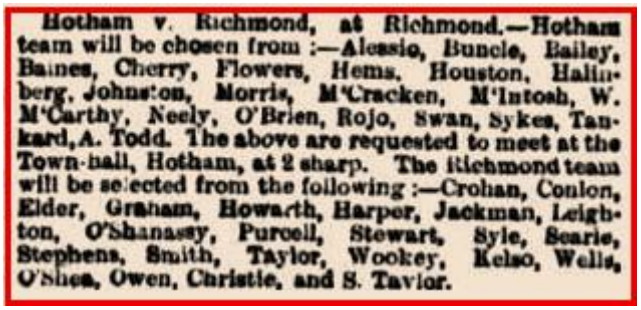
Listed above along with Will Guest are Noth Melbourne's players are: Bradley, Bradley, Carlton, Chapman, Doran, Dedassel, Guest, Greenwood, Gardiner, Gardiner, Halinbourg, Kelly, Moylan, McIntosh, McInnes, Nairn, Quested, Reynolds, Shaw, Stewart, Suares, Taylor and Williams.

News of VFA matches was widely read and as is seen below, Hotham 's match against Fitzroy, played in Fitzroy was reported in the popular South Australian newspaper: [323]

Fitzroy and Hotham met on the ground of the former, and although the latter succeeded in returning with a win it was a rather inglorious victory. In the first half Fitzroy completely hemmed their opponents, and secured 1 goal 14 behinds, while the Hothams only got a single behind. In the second half the play was more even, and Hotham, by kicking pretty accurately, notched 4 goals and 3 behinds, while Fitzroy in addition only got 1 goal and 4 more behinds. In the presence of but few spectators Melbourne and University met on the ground of the latter, and the game resulted in favour of Melbourne with 3 goals 10 behinds against University's 1 goal 8 behinds. Not the least interesting match of the afternoon was that of Carlton and Williamstown. Both teams were very evenly matched, and a good struggle ended in favour of Carlton, who secured 2 goals 9 behinds against their opponents' 10 behinds.

[322] ATHLETIC SPORTS, Hotham v Williamstown Juniors, The Herald, Melbourne, Victoria, Friday 31st July 1885, Page 4.
[323] FOOTBALL NOTES, South Australian Register, Adelaide, South Australia, Saturday 22nd August 1885, Page 3.

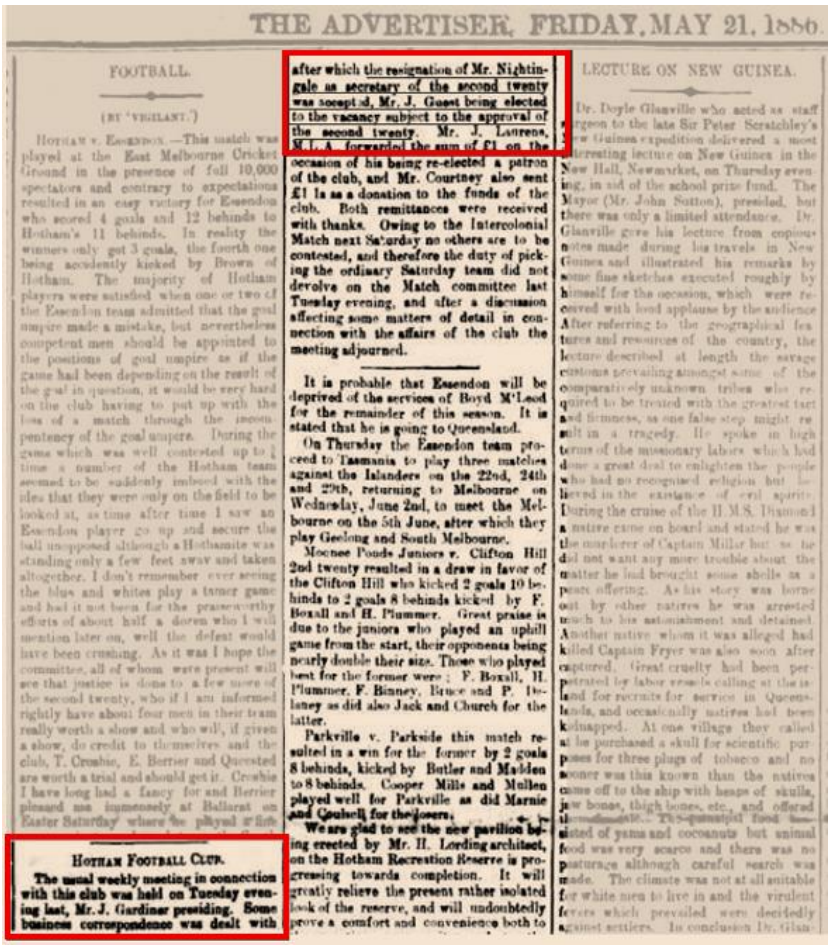
Hotham's player list, first-20, selected to line up against Richmond on Saturday August 29th 1885, is shown below and makes for an account of players: Alessio, Buncle, Bailey, Baines, Cherry, Flowers, Hems, Houston, Halliberg, Johnston, Morris, McCraken, McIntosh, W. McCarthy, Neely, O'Brien, Rojo Swan, Sykes, Tankard, and A. Todd: [324]



Hotham v. Richmond, at Richmond.—Hotham team will be chosen from :—Alessio, Buncle, Bailey, Baines, Cherry, Flowers, Hems, Houston, Halliberg, Johnston, Morris, M'Cracken, M'Intosh, W. M'Carthy, Neely, O'Brien, Rojo, Swan, Sykes, Tankard, A. Todd. The above are requested to meet at the Town-hall, Hotham, at 2 sharp. The Richmond team will be selected from the following :—Crohan, Conlon, Elder, Graham, Howarth, Harper, Jackman, Leighton, O'Shanassy, Purcell, Stewart, Syle, Searle, Stephens, Smith, Taylor, Wookey, Kelso, Wells, O'Shea, Owen, Christie, and S. Taylor.

1886

The article below confirms Jack Guest (1862-1922), former Hotham Cricket Club Secretary's [325] appointment as Hotham *come* North Melbourne's elected second-20 team secretary, *come* coach in 1886:[326]



THE ADVERTISER, FRIDAY, MAY 21, 1886.

FOOTBALL.

(BY 'VIGILANT.')

HOTHAM v. ESSENDON.—This match was played at the East Melbourne Cricket Ground in the presence of full 10,000 spectators and contrary to expectations resulted in an easy victory for Essendon who scored 4 goals and 12 behinds to Hotham's 11 behinds. In reality the winners only got 3 goals, the fourth one being accidently kicked by Brown of Hotham. The majority of Hotham players were satisfied when one or two of the Essendon team admitted that the goal umpire made a mistake, but nevertheless competent men should be appointed to the positions of goal umpire as if the game had been depending on the result of the goal in question, it would be very hard on the club having to put up with the loss of a match through the incompetency of the goal umpire. During the game which was well contested up to 1 time a number of the Hotham team seemed to be suddenly imbued with the idea that they were only on the field to be looked at, as time after time I saw an Essendon player go up and secure the ball unopposed although a Hothamite was standing only a few feet away and taken altogether, I don't remember ever seeing the blue and whites play a tamer game and had it not been for the praiseworthy efforts of about half a dozen who I will mention later on, well the defeat would have been crushing. As it was I hope the committee, all of whom were present will see that justice is done to a few more of the second twenty, who if I am informed rightly have about four men in their team really worth a show and who will, if given a show, do credit to themselves and the club, T. Crosbie, E. Berrier and Quested are worth a trial and should get it. Crosbie I have long had a fancy for and Berrier pleased me immensely at Ballarat on Easter Saturday where he played a fine

HOTHAM FOOTBALL CLUB.

The usual weekly meeting in connection with this club was held on Tuesday evening last, Mr. J. Gardiner presiding. Some business correspondence was dealt with after which the resignation of Mr. Nightingale as secretary of the second twenty was accepted, Mr. J. Guest being elected to the vacancy subject to the approval of the second twenty. Mr. J. Laurens, M. L. A. forwarded the sum of £1 on the occasion of his being re-elected a patron of the club, and Mr. Courtney also sent £1 1s as a donation to the funds of the club. Both remittances were received with thanks. Owing to the Intercolonial Match next Saturday no others are to be contested, and therefore the duty of picking the ordinary Saturday team did not devolve on the Match committee last Tuesday evening, and after a discussion affecting some matters of detail in connection with the affairs of the club the meeting adjourned.

It is probable that Essendon will be deprived of the services of Boyd M'Leod for the remainder of this season. It is stated that he is going to Queensland.

On Thursday the Essendon team proceed to Tasmania to play three matches against the Islanders on the 22nd, 24th and 29th, returning to Melbourne on Wednesday, June 2nd, to meet the Melbourne on the 5th June, after which they play Geelong and South Melbourne.

Moonee Ponds Juniors v. Clifton Hill 2nd twenty resulted in a draw in favor of the Clifton Hill who kicked 2 goals 10 behinds to 2 goals 8 behinds kicked by F. Boxall and H. Plummer. Great praise is due to the juniors who played an uphill game from the start, their opponents being nearly double their size. Those who played best for the former were : F. Boxall, H. Plummer, F. Binney, Bruce and P. Hotchkiss as did also Jack and Church for the latter.

Parkville v. Parkside this match resulted in a win for the former by 2 goals 8 behinds, kicked by Butler and Madden to 8 behinds. Cooper Mills and Mullen played well for Parkville as did Marnie and Goubell for the losers.

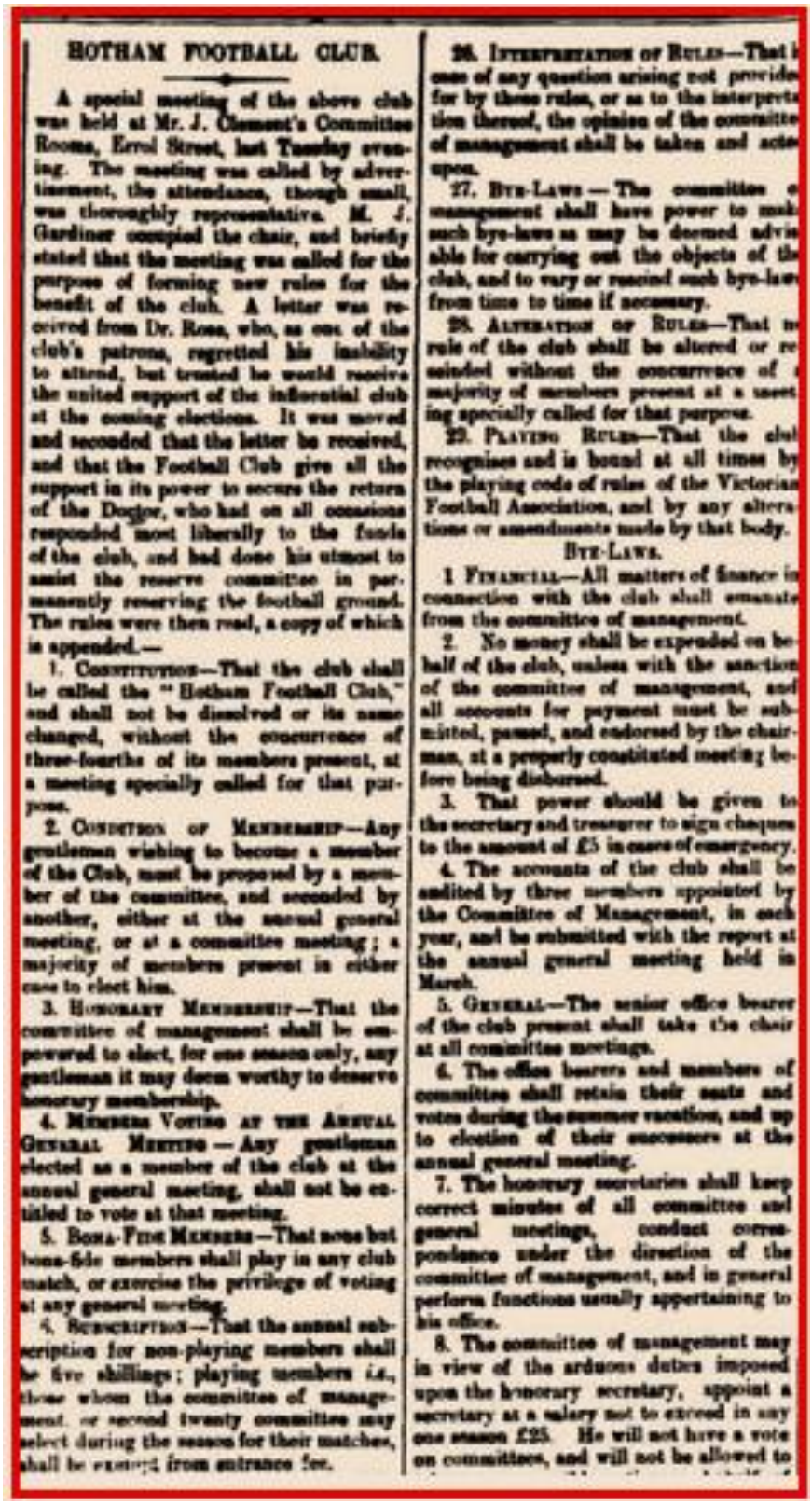
We are glad to see the new pavilion being erected by Mr. H. Lording architect, on the Hotham Recreation Reserve is progressing towards completion. It will greatly relieve the present rather isolated look of the reserve, and will undoubtedly prove a comfort and convenience both to

LECTURE ON NEW GUINEA.

Dr. Doyle Glanville who acted as staff surgeon to the late Sir Peter Scratchley's New Guinea expedition delivered a most interesting lecture on New Guinea in the New Hall, Newmarket, on Thursday evening, in aid of the school prize fund. The Mayor (Mr. John Sutton), presided, but there was only a limited attendance. Dr. Glanville gave his lecture from copious notes made during his travels in New Guinea and illustrated his remarks by some fine sketches executed roughly by himself for the occasion, which were received with loud applause by the audience. After referring to the geographical features and resources of the country, the lecture described at length the savage customs prevailing amongst some of the comparatively unknown tribes who required to be treated with the greatest tact and firmness, as one false step might result in a tragedy. He spoke in high terms of the missionary labors which had done a great deal to enlighten the people who had no recognised religion but believed in the existence of evil spirits. During the cruise of the H.M.S. Diamond a native came on board and stated he was the murderer of Captain Miller but as he did not want any more trouble about the matter he had brought some shells as a peace offering. As his story was borne out by other natives he was arrested much to his astonishment and detained. Another native whom it was alleged had killed Captain Fryer was also soon after captured. Great cruelty had been perpetrated by labor vessels calling at the island for recruits for service in Queensland, and occasionally natives had been kidnapped. At one village they called at to purchased a skull for scientific purposes for three plugs of tobacco and no sooner was this known than the natives came off to the ship with heaps of skulls, jaw bones, thigh bones, etc., and offered them for sale. The principal food consisted of yams and cocoanuts but animal food was very scarce and there was no pasturage although careful search was made. The climate was not at all suitable for white men to live in and the virulent fevers which prevailed were decidedly against settlers. In conclusion Dr. Glan-

[324] SPORTING INTELLIGENCE, The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 29th August 1885, Page 10.
[325] North Melbourne Cricket Club established 1855 playing at Graham's Paddock near the Benevolent Society, Melbourne's Playgrounds, No. 2, The Age, Saturday 13th May 1933, page 18.
[326] HOTHAM FOOTBALL CLUB, North Melbourne Advertiser, Victoria, Friday, May 21st 1886, Page 3. Mr. J. Guest elected to Secretary, Second-Twenty, taken to mean Coach.

New rules for the club were introduced on the 26th February 1886, adding that the coach of the second-20 shall also keep minutes of the second-20 selection committee:[327]



HOTHAM FOOTBALL CLUB.

A special meeting of the above club was held at Mr. J. Clement's Committee Rooms, Errol Street, last Tuesday evening. The meeting was called by advertisement, the attendance, though small, was thoroughly representative. M. J. Gardiner occupied the chair, and briefly stated that the meeting was called for the purpose of forming new rules for the benefit of the club. A letter was received from Dr. Ross, who, as one of the club's patrons, regretted his inability to attend, but trusted he would receive the united support of the influential club at the coming elections. It was moved and seconded that the letter be received, and that the Football Club give all the support in its power to secure the return of the Doctor, who had on all occasions responded most liberally to the funds of the club, and had done his utmost to assist the reserve committee in permanently reserving the football ground. The rules were then read, a copy of which is appended.—

1. Constitution—That the club shall be called the "Hotham Football Club," and shall not be dissolved or its name changed, without the concurrence of three-fourths of its members present, at a meeting specially called for that purpose.

2. Condition of Membership—Any gentleman wishing to become a member of the Club, must be proposed by a member of the committee, and seconded by another, either at the annual general meeting, or at a committee meeting; a majority of members present in either case to elect him.

3. Honorary Membership—That the committee of management shall be empowered to elect, for one season only, any gentleman it may deem worthy to deserve honorary membership.

4. Members Voting at the Annual General Meeting—Any gentleman elected as a member of the club at the annual general meeting, shall not be entitled to vote at that meeting.

5. Bona-Fide Members—That none but bona-fide members shall play in any club match, or exercise the privilege of voting at any general meeting.

6. Subscription—That the annual subscription for non-playing members shall be five shillings; playing members *i.e.*, those whom the committee of management, or second twenty committee may select during the season for their matches, shall be exempt from entrance fee.

26. Interpretation of Rules—That in case of any question arising not provided for by these rules, or as to the interpretation thereof, the opinion of the committee of management shall be taken and acted upon.

27. Bye-Laws—The committee of management shall have power to make such bye-laws as may be deemed advisable for carrying out the objects of the club, and to vary or rescind such bye-laws from time to time if necessary.

28. Alteration of Rules—That no rule of the club shall be altered or rescinded without the concurrence of a majority of members present at a meeting specially called for that purpose.

29. Playing Rules—That the club recognises and is bound at all times by the playing code of rules of the Victorian Football Association, and by any alterations or amendments made by that body.

Bye-Laws.

1. Financial—All matters of finance in connection with the club shall emanate from the committee of management.

2. No money shall be expended on behalf of the club, unless with the sanction of the committee of management, and all accounts for payment must be submitted, passed, and endorsed by the chairman, at a properly constituted meeting before being disbursed.

3. That power should be given to the secretary and treasurer to sign cheques to the amount of £5 in cases of emergency.

4. The accounts of the club shall be audited by three members appointed by the Committee of Management, in each year, and be submitted with the report at the annual general meeting held in March.

5. General—The senior office bearer of the club present shall take the chair at all committee meetings.

6. The office bearers and members of committee shall retain their seats and votes during the summer vacation, and up to election of their successors at the annual general meeting.

7. The honorary secretaries shall keep correct minutes of all committee and general meetings, conduct correspondence under the direction of the committee of management, and in general perform functions usually appertaining to his office.

8. The committee of management may in view of the arduous duties imposed upon the honorary secretary, appoint a secretary at a salary not to exceed in any one season £25. He will not have a vote on committees, and will not be allowed to

Continued …

[327] HOTHAM FOOTBALL CLUB, North Melbourne Advertiser, Victoria, Friday 26th February 1886, Page 3.

7. PAYMENT OF SUBSCRIPTIONS—The annual subscription shall be due on the 1st of May; any member not paying his subscription on or before the 1st of June ensuing, shall cease to be a member of the club; but the committee are empowered to replace his name upon the list if sufficient cause be given for so doing. Gentlemen admitted as members after the annual general meeting must pay subscription on election.

8. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING—That an annual general meeting of the club shall be held in the month of March in each year, for the purpose of receiving and adoption or otherwise of report and balance sheet. The election of office-bearers, presentation of testimonials and any other business to be submitted to the meeting.

9. OFFICE-BEARERS—That the office-bearers of the club shall consist of four patrons, a president, six vice-presidents, honorary secretary, ex-officio members of management committee, treasurer and second twenty secretary, who shall be elected annually at the annual general meeting, and shall be eligable for re-election.

10. ELECTION OF CAPTAIN AND VICE-CAPTAIN—That the members of the first twenty shall meet prior to the first senior match, and elect the captain and vice-captain for the ensuing season.

11. COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT—That a general committee of seven members shall be elected annually, at the annual general meeting, who with the office-bearers of the club, including captain of first twenty, shall constitute the committee of management, five members to form a quorum at any meeting of committee. The committee of management shall annually elect three non-players and two players, whose duties in conjunction with the captain shall be to select teams for the first twenty, three to form a quorum, secretary to be ex-officio member.

12. COMMITTEE MEETINGS—That the committee of management shall meet every Tuesday evening during the season at 8 p.m., for the transaction of the club business.

13. NON-ATTENDANCE AT COMMITTEE MEETINGS—That any member who may be elected an office-bearer, excepting the patrons, president, vice-presidents and captain, absenting himself from three consecutive committee meetings without sending a satisfactory explanation, shall be held to have vacated his office and it shall be in the power of the committee to fill up such vacancy.

take any responsible action on behalf of the club, but will be required to carry out all the directions of the committee and keep all the necessary records, and will be liable to instant dismissal by them if he fail to give satisfaction.

9. The treasurer shall receive the contributions of members, and other moneys due to the club in accordance with the manner provided by the rules and bye-laws, keep a correct account of the income and expenditure, and submit a monthly abstract thereof to the committee of management, pay all moneys into a bank account in the club's name, and have all cheques for disbursements countersigned by the secretary. In the absence of the treasurer, cheques may be signed by secretary and a member of committee appointed by the committee of management.

10. The second twenty secretary shall keep a correct record of the meetings of the second twenty committee attend the weekly meetings of the committee of management, and read minutes, correspondence, and furnish every matter of interest in connection with the second twenty.

11. The delegates appointed to act on the Victorian Football Association are required to keep the committee of management posted up with the doings and transactions of the association.

12. The Captain is required to inform the committee immediately after the occurrence in the field of any act of disobedience, bad language, or conduct calculated to lower the dignity of the club, or morally affect it.

13. Playing members will be provided at the commencement of every season with the recognised club cap.

14. Every member will be furnished with a copy of these rules.

LODGE MEETINGS.

The half-yearly meeting of the Corinthian Lodge 184, U.A.O.D., was held in their new lodge room, Hit or Miss hotel, Villers street Hotham, on the 4th inst., when the report and balance sheet were read and adopted. They showed the lodge to be in a very flourishing condition. At the end of the half-year ending June the total amount of funds were in the incidental 13s 1d, sick and funeral £48 18s 6d. Total £49 11s 7d with 31 financial members, at the end of the December half-year the funds are incidental £3 7s 10d, sick and funeral £64 9s 11d. Total £69 17s 9d or an increase of £20 6s 2d with 28 financial members. The

Continued …

14. Election of Delegates to the Victorian Football Association—The committee of management shall annually appoint two delegates to represent the club on the Victorian Football Association.

15. Second Twenty Committee—A meeting of the second twenty to be called within fourteen days from annual meeting for the purpose of electing a committee of five, whose duties shall be in conjunction with the second twenty secretary to select teams and to look after the welfare and interests of the second twenty.

16. Second Twenty Captain and Vice-Captain—The captain and vice-captain of the second twenty shall be annually elected at the first match of the season by the playing members present at the time, and shall be ex-officio members of the second twenty committee.

17. Sub Committee—The committee of management shall appoint from time to time all sub-committees for the management of concerts, sports, and other matters of special interest that may require investigation.

18. Uniform—That the uniform of the club shall consist of blue and white jersey, knickerbockers and cap, and blue and white striped hose. It is compulsory on the part of members of the first twenty to wear this uniform in its entirety.

19. Members to Play in Matches—That all members to play in matches shall be chosen by the respective match committees. In the event of any member chosen to play in a match being absent, the emergency man to play in the order named, but should they be absent the captain must then act on the advice of the members of the match committee present on the ground to fill the vacancy.

20. Captain in the Field—The captain shall have the sole management of the team entrusted to his command, and decide in all matters of dispute which may arise in the field of play.

21. Members Disobeying Captain—Any member disobeying the orders of the captain in the field, using abusive or bad language, shall be fined as the committee may determine.

22. Fines—That all fines incurred by a member must be paid within fourteen days after being demanded by the secretary, otherwise the defaulters name shall be expunged from the list of members.

23. Expulsion—That as a means of getting rid of an obnoxious member, the committee of management on receiving a complaint signed by twelve members of the club (provided they consider the complaint of sufficient moment) shall call a special committee meeting, when the expulsion of the said member shall be proceeded with, the majority to decide, and that one week's notice of such intention be given to the member complained of.

24. Special Meetings—That on a requisition in writing, signed by twelve members being delivered to the secretary he shall, by giving a week's notice of the same, call a special general meeting of the members by advertisement, the requisition to state the object of such meeting. Twelve members shall be required to form a quorum.

25. Voting at Meetings—The name of every meeting shall be determined by the show of hands, unless a ballot be demanded.

On Saturday the 8th May 1886, Hotham defeated Fitzroy in a tough encounter in Fitzroy. Players named for Hotham that day included R.S. Houston (captain, known also as R. Houston), Joesph Tankard, Wal Johnson, G. Sykes, Tom Peters, William Johnson, Bailey, S. Brown, Eddy Fox, W. Wallace, H. Hems, K. Cherry and R. Nairn. In addition, with other news regarding Hotham also included in the column below, learned is Hotham's president in 1886 was Mr. M. Montgomerie:

FOOTBALL.

HOTHAM v. FITZROY.

(BY 'VIGILANT.')

These two clubs met last Saturday for the first time this season on the Fitzroy cricket ground, and after a very rough game the Hotham were returned victors by a score of 3 goals 9 behinds to 2 goals 7 behinds. Peters (2) and Wm. Johnston were the goal kickers for the winners. W. Wells, an old South Melbourne player, was central umpire, but I cannot compliment him on the way he performed his duties, as both teams were very much dissatisfied with his decisions right through the game. The principal features of the was the superb play of R. S. Houston for Hotham and J. Worrall for Fitzroy, both of whom fairly carried all before them, and repeatedly brought loud plaudits from the spectators, of whom there were about 400 present.

R. Houston played a splendid game, and fairly played all over his opponents, the skilful manner in which he handled the ball and passed his men being well worth going a long way to see.

Joe Tankard looked especially neat and trim, but he was hardly up to his last Saturday's form, his kicking being the chief feature of his play on Saturday.

Wal. Johnson played a sterling good game, and I don't think I remember seeing him ever tossed about so much, but I am glad to say he came out none the worse for it, and will no doubt give a good account of himself and his men next Saturday at the E. M. C. Ground.

G. Sykes was in rare form, and there is no doubt he is one of the coming men for Hotham. He played a fine game from start to finish.

H. Todd kicked and marked splendidly, and well deserved the applause so frequently bestowed on him.

Mr. Johnson and Mr Bylay each showed good form, but the extremely

rough game made these light men appear to less advantage than is usually the case.

Tom Peters kicked two goals very cleverly, the last and winning goal in particular being a regular ringer.

S. Brown and Eddy Fox were both knocked about a lot, but nevertheless worked hard for their side.

W. Wallace and H. Hems both played a fine game, Hems in particular showing last half something splendid.

K. Cherry and R. Nairn also strove hard for their side, and though not singularly successful they deserve mention for their efforts.

Before concluding I must again mention the fine play of Worrall, the Fitzroy captain, who right through the match won the admiration of both friend and foe for the manly and splendid exhibition of football displayed by him.

Hotham meet Essendon next Saturday, and if they only play to one another and not try to run so much, I have no hesitation in saying that the wearers of the scarlet and black will have to be in their best form to hold their own with the perpendicular blue and white.

feelings towards him. The Match Committee then picked the following team to play against Essendon on Saturday:—Alessio, Bailey, Brown, Cherry, Fox, Hems, Houston, Johnstone (2), M'Intosh, Nairn, Peters, Sykes, Tankard, Todd, Wallace, Lang, Skinner, Haydon, O'Brien. Emergencies—Swan, Anderson, and A. Todd.

Players picked for the next match v Essendon scheduled for Saturday the 15th May 1886 were named also: Alessio, Bailey, Brown, Cherry, Fox, Hems, Houston, Johnstone (2), McIntosh, Nairn, Peters, Sykes, Tankard, Todd, Wallace, Lang, Skinner, Haydon, O'Brien with emergencies being Swan, Anderson, and A. Todd: [328]

[328] FOOTBALL, FITZROY v HOTHAM, North Melbourne Advertiser, Victoria, Friday 14th May 1886, Page 3.

Submitted below is a report about the game Hotham v Geelong played Saturday 22nd May 1887 in front of 17,000 spectators. Named are the following players and/or members of the Hotham Football Club in 1887 named in this article: M. O' Brien; Anderson, Alessio, Bailey, Brown, William Christian, Fox, Hayden, Hems, Houston, Horrocks, Johnston [Will], McIntosh, McInerney, O'Brien, Peters, Robertson, Todd H, Tankard, Wallace, Todd. A, Gardiner, J, Fuhrhop H.: [329]

FOOTBALL.

The Hotham and Geelong 1st twenties, met on the E.M.C.C. last Monday. There was an immense attendance about 17,000 persons being present. The game almost from the start was marred by the unfair conduct of the umpire, Wilson, who so favored Geelong that even the Pivotonians through their local paper, the *Geelong Advertiser* animadvert on the decisions. The game resulted in a draw in favor of Geelong. Both teams played sterling football and the large concourse testified their approval by vociferations that no pen can describe. The Hotham play the University on Saturday on the ground of the latter.

Mr. H. Wilson, who acted as umpire in the match on the Queen's Birthday between the Hotham and Geelong Football Clubs, has seemingly brought a hornet's nest about his ears, by his decisions. At the usual meeting of the Hotham club on Tuesday evening, Mr. Wilson's conduct was characterised as grossly unfair towards the local team, and a spirit of dissatisfaction with him as a referee in football matters, was expressed in pretty strong terms. We see that the *Sportsman* has taken the question in hand, and accuses the gentleman in question of displaying an undue partiality for the Geelong team. All this is bad, "fair play is bonnie play," and if the result of a game is practically a foregone conclusion it is not worth contesting.

At a meeting of the Hotham Football Club held last Tuesday evening it was decided that a letter of condolence be sent to Mr. M. O'Brien, expressive of the club's sympathy with him in his late sad bereavement occasioned by the loss of his wife.

The Hotham Football Club met last Tuesday evening, but the business was not of a strictly formal character, the principal business transacted being the picking of the subjoined team to play against the University on their own ground. The names of the players are—Anderson, Alessio, Bailey, Brown, Christian, Fox, Hayden, Hems, Houston, Horrocks, Will. Johnstone, Lang, M'Intosh, M'Inerney, O'Brien, Peters, Robertson, H. Todd, Tankard, Wallace. Emergencies—A. Todd, J. Gardiner, H. Furhop.

[329] FOOTBALL, HOTHAM v GEELONG, North Melbourne Advertiser, Victoria, Friday 28th May 1886, Page 3.

Will Guest, along with his club members Messrs. J.H. Gardner, Sutcliffe, Harcourt, Robertson, and Ley, served as a general committee member for the North Melbourne Football Club (Hotham) in 1886 Those noted below also attended St. Mary's in the same class as Guest during their school years: Alfred Buncle Sam Butt: [330]

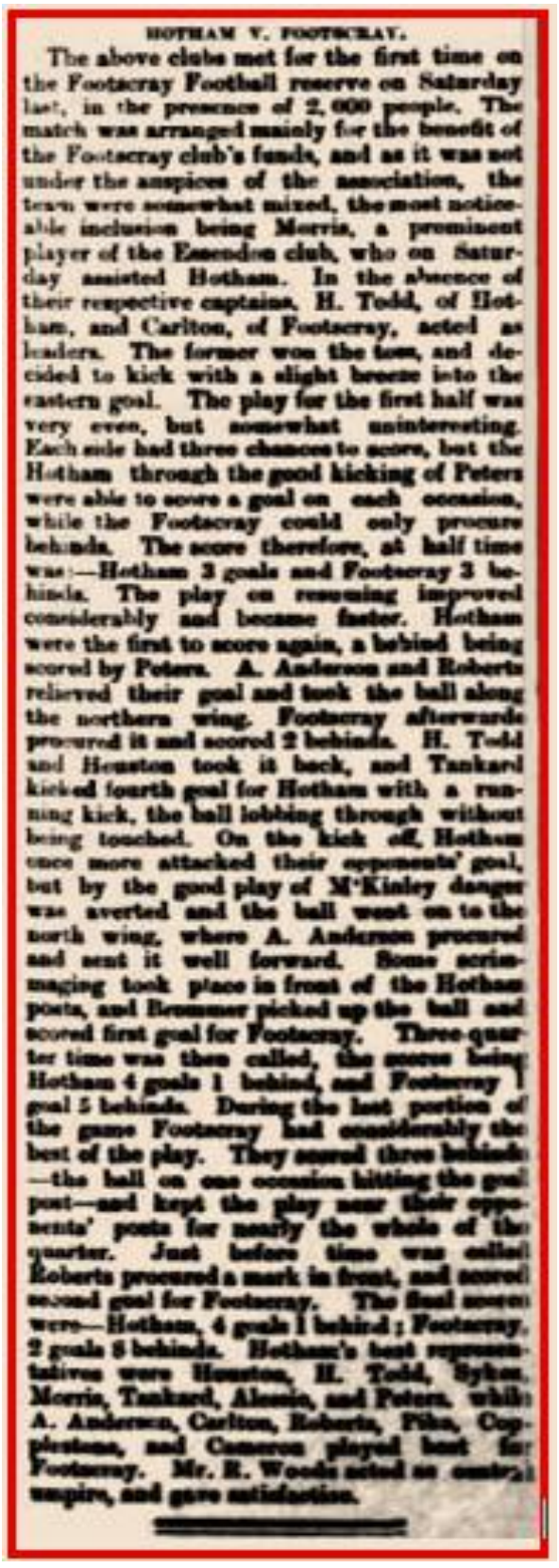
FOOTBALL NOTES.

By "O.C."

This week I have the pleasure of presenting a brief account of the Hotham Football Club, an institution which has survived the most varying fortunes, and is now in a fair way of becoming a permanent success. The first move in the direction of forming a club in Hotham was taken many years back, the original title of the organisation being the North Melbourne Football Club. For some time the northerners flourished under this name, but presently ill-fortune attended them, the termination of a series of trials being a temporary amalgamation with the old Albert Park club. This arrangement did not answer long, however, the second season witnessing its discontinuance. On the 12th of April, 1877, the Hotham club proper was inaugurated, a meeting for the purpose being held at Sutcliffe's Turf Club Hotel on that date. The worthy host, Mr Sutcliffe, was elected president, and honourably filled the important office for five consecutive years, during which period the foundation of that reputation which the club now enjoys was firmly laid. Mr. Harcourt succeeded Mr. Sutcliffe, and presided over affairs for three years, at the close of which, Mr. Montgomery, the present president, was elected to the chief position. But few of the names associated with the formation of the club remain on the list of its active patrons. There are, however, three which I feel should be mentioned in an article of this description, namely, J. Gardiner, the first treasurer, H. Fuhrop, the pioneer captain, and W. M'Lean, who acted as the first vice. Throughout the term of the club's life, these enthusiasts have stood in and by it, and, with the earlier presidents and a few others, they may justly feel proud of the outcome of their labours. Mr. Fuhrop twice commanded the forces, the post of captain having also been filled at various times by J. Robertson, A. Ley, G. Bruce, A. Pullen, A. Buncle, S. Butt, and the present skipper, Walter Johnston. Perhaps the most important event in the club's history was the amalgamation, for ground purposes, with the local cricket club. This took place in 1882, the games having previously been played in the Royal Park. took place in 1882, the games having previously been played in the Royal Park. Although at first the field was anything but suitable for football purposes during wet weather, the fact of having a ground seems to have exercised an important influence on the club's prosperity, as since its acquirement steady progress has marked each successive year's experience. Especially has this been the case recently, and the 1886 season will long be remembered as that in which the new and commodious pavilion, which now adorns the enclosure, was erected. A suitable finishing touch in the shape of a handsome clock, has just been put to the new structure by Mr Steele, a prominent local resident It is hoped that his example may incite other leading residents (whose interest in the club's movements are now happily being roused) to similar handsome deeds The enterprise shown by the controllers (under the secretaryship of Mr. R. Lawrence) of the Recreation Reserve—by which name the ground is known—is certainly deserving of encouragement. In addition to the building referred to, there has been considerable filling in; and finally, a splendid system of drainage, whereby the turf may be kept properly dry, has been carried out, at a cost of some £2000. The total amount expended cannot be much less than fifteen hundred pounds, and any company, whether recreative or otherwise, which lays out such a sum to the public advantage, has indisputable claims to public sympathy and support. The executive consists of the president, Mr. Montgomery; six vice-presidents, Messrs. W. Rae, J. Pilkington, J. M'Calman, J. Gardiner, J. Green and L. Cousell; honorary secretary, Mr. J. Munro; honorary treasurer, Mr F. M. Evans; and seven general committeemen, Messrs. F. Gray, R. Houston, W. Guest, A. Ley, H. Fuhrop, F. Mitchell, and J. Bellinger. There is also a match committee, composed of three players, and four non-playing members, to whom the selection of all teams is entrusted.

[330] FOOTBALL NOTES, by O.C, Weekly Times, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 28th August 1886, Page 6.

The Williamstown Chronicle reports Hotham played Footscray at Footscray on the 9th October 1886, defeating Footscray 4 goals 1 behinds to 2 goal 8 behinds: [331]



HOTHAM V. FOOTSCRAY.

The above clubs met for the first time on the Footscray Football reserve on Saturday last, in the presence of 2,000 people. The match was arranged mainly for the benefit of the Footscray club's funds, and as it was not under the auspices of the association, the team were somewhat mixed, the most noticeable inclusion being Morris, a prominent player of the Essendon club, who on Saturday assisted Hotham. In the absence of their respective captains, H. Todd, of Hotham, and Carlton, of Footscray, acted as leaders. The former won the toss, and decided to kick with a slight breeze into the eastern goal. The play for the first half was very even, but somewhat uninteresting. Each side had three chances to score, but the Hotham through the good kicking of Peters were able to score a goal on each occasion, while the Footscray could only procure behinds. The score therefore, at half time was:—Hotham 3 goals and Footscray 3 behinds. The play on resuming improved considerably and became faster. Hotham were the first to score again, a behind being scored by Peters. A. Anderson and Roberts relieved their goal and took the ball along the northern wing. Footscray afterwards procured it and scored 2 behinds. H. Todd and Houston took it back, and Tankard kicked fourth goal for Hotham with a running kick, the ball lobbing through without being touched. On the kick off, Hotham once more attacked their opponents' goal, but by the good play of M'Kinley danger was averted and the ball went on to the north wing, where A. Anderson procured and sent it well forward. Some scrimmaging took place in front of the Hotham posts, and Brommer picked up the ball and scored first goal for Footscray. Three-quarter time was then called, the scores being Hotham 4 goals 1 behind, and Footscray 1 goal 5 behinds. During the last portion of the game Footscray had considerably the best of the play. They scored three behinds—the ball on one occasion hitting the goal post—and kept the play near their opponents' posts for nearly the whole of the quarter. Just before time was called Roberts procured a mark in front, and scored second goal for Footscray. The final scores were—Hotham, 4 goals 1 behind; Footscray, 2 goals 8 behinds. Hotham's best representatives were Houston, H. Todd, Sykes, Morris, Tankard, Alessio, and Peters, while A. Anderson, Carlton, Roberts, Pike, Copplestone, and Cameron played best for Footscray. Mr. R. Woods acted as central umpire, and gave satisfaction.

[331] FOOTBALL, Hotham v Footscray, Williamstown Chronicle, Victoria, Saturday 9th October 1886, Page 3.

"Found" is a response to the article titled "Melbourne's Playgrounds, No. 2," published on May 13, 1933, by former North Melbourne (Hotham) footballer William Christian. Drawing on the article released a week prior, he it necessary to validate the aspects he recognised as accurate based on his personal experiences with the club: [332]

MELBOURNE'S CHIEF PLAY GROUNDS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE AGE.

Sir,—I read with interest under the heading Melbourne's Chief Play Grounds an article (No. 2) by "F.M." 1886. I was in the Hotham team of footballers, and it brought back a lot of old memories. There are several of the players whose names I cannot remember. It would be nice if someone could give all the names. I remember Wal Johnson, Will Johnson, Alf Todd, Harry Todd, Harry Alessio, Jack Clements, Horrocks, Billy Lang, Archie Sykes and Joey Tankard. The others I cannot remember. In 1890 I went to Essendon till 1895, then came up here, and have been here ever since.—Yours, &c.,

WILLIAM P. CHRISTIAN

Boolarra, 16th May.

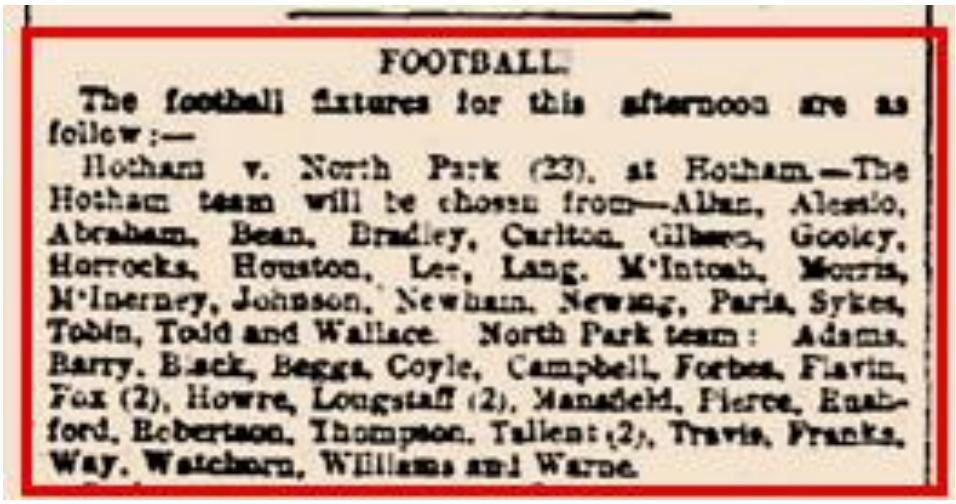
Adding to the North Melbourne Football Club's early collection of photographs is an image taken of an unknown North Melbourne Football Club player circa 1886 posing with the false prop, a round football: [333]

[332] Reply by William Christian to the article - MELBOURNE'S CHIEF PLAY GROUNDS, The Age, Melbourne, Vitoria, Saturday 20th May 1933, Page 4.

[333] Photo of an unidentified footballer with a round-ball prop in a Melbourne city studio c.1876 [State Library of Victoria].

1887

On Saturday the 30th April at Hotham Recreational Reserve (Arden Street Oval) Hotham took on 23 players from the junior Club Royal Park. Picked to play for Hotham that day were: Abraham, Bean, Bradley, Carlton, Gilbern, Gooley, Horrocks, Houston, Lee, Lang, McIntosh, Morris, McInerney, Johnson, Newham, Newing, Paria, Sykes,, Tobin, Todd and Wallace: [334]

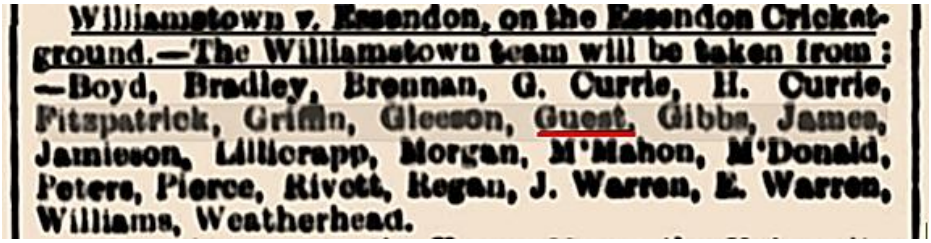


FOOTBALL.

The football fixtures for this afternoon are as follow:—

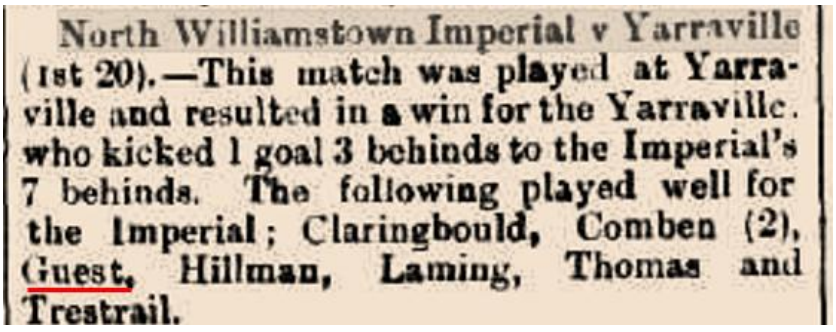
Hotham v. North Park (23), at Hotham.—The Hotham team will be chosen from—Allan, Alessio, Abraham, Bean, Bradley, Carlton, Gilbern, Gooley, Horrocks, Houston, Lee, Lang, M'Intosh, Morris, M'Inerney, Johnson, Newham, Newing, Paria, Sykes, Tobin, Todd and Wallace. North Park team: Adams, Barry, Black, Beggs, Coyle, Campbell, Forbes, Flavin, Fox (2), Howre, Longstaff (2), Manadeld, Pierce, Rushford, Robertson, Thompson, Tallent (2), Travis, Franks, Way, Watchorn, Williams and Warne.

That same day, Will and Jack's youngest surviving brother Archie, after leaving North at the end of season 1886 lined up for Williamstown's first-20 team against Essendon at the Essendon Cricket Ground on Saturday 30th April 1887: [335]



Williamstown v. Essendon, on the Essendon Cricket-ground.—The Williamstown team will be taken from:—Boyd, Bradley, Brennan, G. Currie, H. Currie, Fitzpatrick, Griffin, Gleeson, Guest, Gibbs, James, Jamieson, Lillicrapp, Morgan, M'Mahon, M'Donald, Peters, Pierce, Rivett, Regan, J. Warren, E. Warren, Williams, Weatherhead.

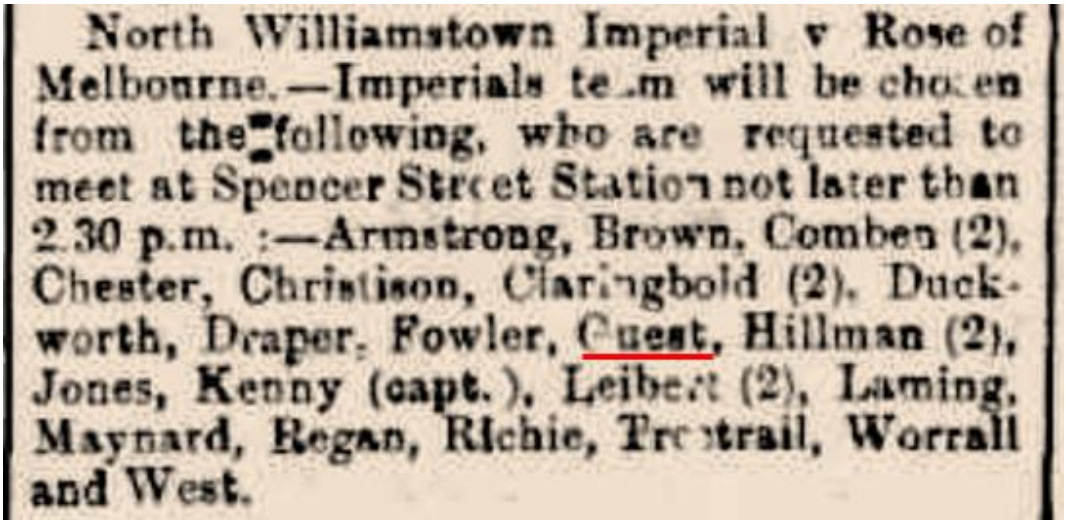
Under arrangement with Williamstown, when not picked to play for the first-20 team Archie Guest played for North Williamstown Imperial Football Club. This arrangement is recorded below in a game Archie played against Yarraville's first-20: [336] [337]



North Williamstown Imperial v Yarraville (1st 20).—This match was played at Yarraville and resulted in a win for the Yarraville, who kicked 1 goal 3 behinds to the Imperial's 7 behinds. The following played well for the Imperial; Claringbould, Comben (2), Guest, Hillman, Laming, Thomas and Trestrail.

[334] FOOTBAL, The Age, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 30th April 1887, Page 10.
[335] FOOTBALL, WILLIAMSTOWN v ESSENDON, The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 30th April 1887, Page 12.
[336] FOOTBALL, Williamstown Advertiser Victoria, Saturday 21st May 1887, Page 2.
[337] This match substituted as a reserved gamed for Archie Guest for Williamstown Football Club.

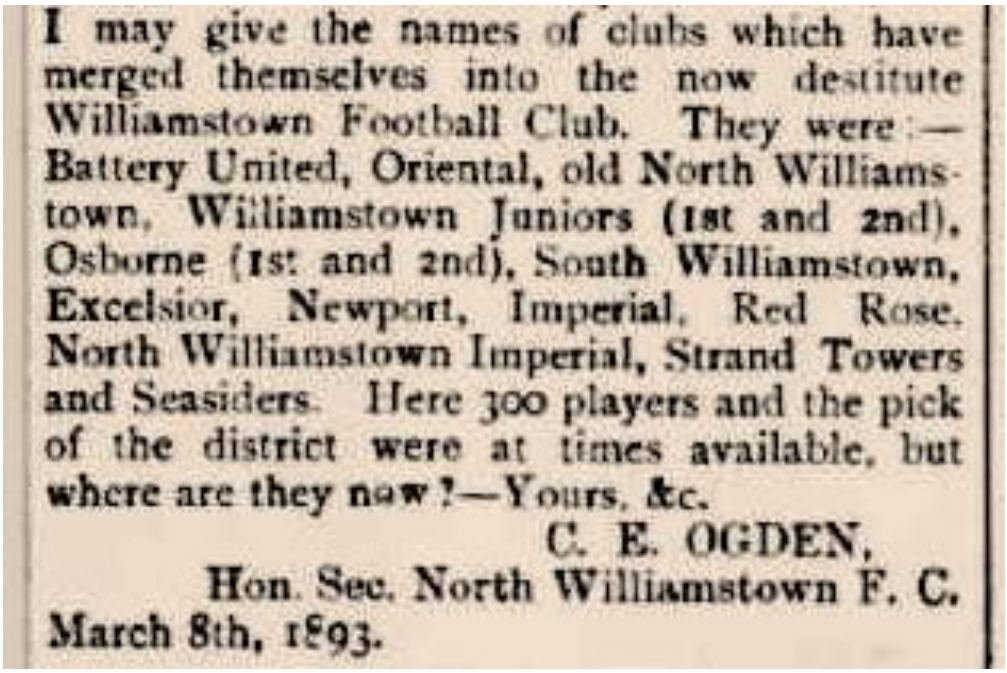
Two weeks later Archie is picked to play for North Williamstown Imperial (Junior) Football Club lining up to against Rose of Melbourne:[338]



North Williamstown Imperial v Rose of Melbourne.—Imperials team will be chosen from the following, who are requested to meet at Spencer Street Station not later than 2.30 p.m. :—Armstrong, Brown, Comben (2), Chester, Christison, Claringbold (2), Duckworth, Draper, Fowler, Guest, Hillman (2), Jones, Kenny (capt.), Leibert (2), Laming, Maynard, Regan, Richie, Trentrail, Worrall and West.

The relationship between Williamstown Football Club and North Williamstown Imperial Football Club developed from 1886 to 1993, culminating in William's takeover of the North Williamstown Imperial FC.

It appears to be standard practice for the Williamstown Football Club during this period to forge connections with local junior open age football clubs by loaning their players to these if they are not selected for Williamstown's first team, ultimately leading to the integration of the junior club into the Williamstown Football Club: [339]

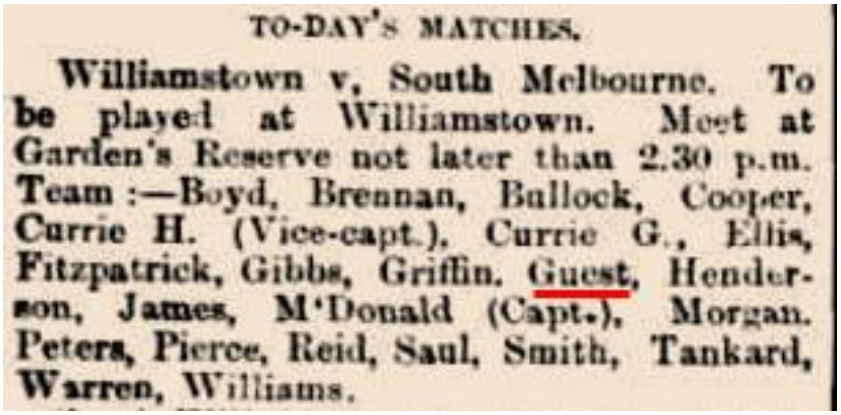


I may give the names of clubs which have merged themselves into the now destitute Williamstown Football Club. They were:—Battery United, Oriental, old North Williamstown, Williamstown Juniors (1st and 2nd), Osborne (1st and 2nd), South Williamstown, Excelsior, Newport, Imperial, Red Rose, North Williamstown Imperial, Strand Towers and Seasiders. Here 300 players and the pick of the district were at times available, but where are they now?—Yours, &c.

C. E. OGDEN,
Hon. Sec. North Williamstown F. C.
March 8th, 1893.

[338] TO-DAY'S MATCHES, Williamstown Advertiser, Victoria, Saturday 4th June 1887, Page 2.
[339] THE WILLIAMSTOWN and NORTH WILLIAMSTOWN FOOTBALL CLUB, Williamstown Advertiser, Victoria, Saturday 11th March 1893, 2.

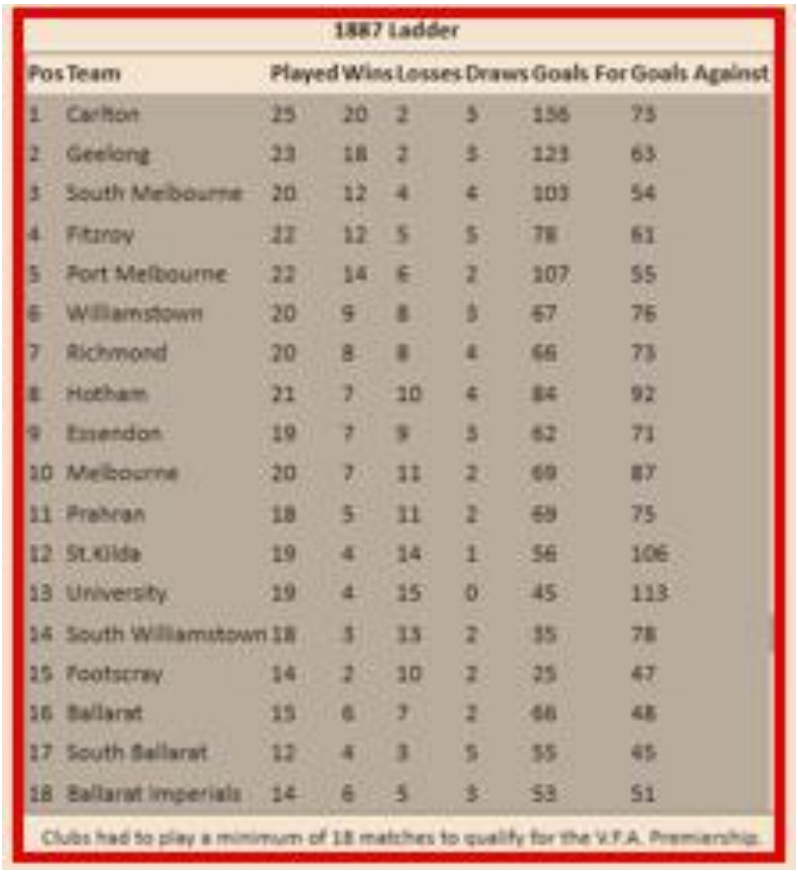
The system probably worked well for Archie and no later than Saturday 20th August 1887 he is found picked once more to play for Williamstown first-20 against South Melbourne at Gardens Reserve Williamstown:[340] [341]



TO-DAY'S MATCHES.

Williamstown v, South Melbourne. To be played at Williamstown. Meet at Garden's Reserve not later than 2.30 p.m. Team :—Boyd, Brennan, Bullock, Cooper, Currie H. (Vice-capt.), Currie G., Ellis, Fitzpatrick, Gibbs, Griffin, Guest, Henderson, James, M'Donald (Capt.), Morgan, Peters, Pierce, Reid, Saul, Smith, Tankard, Warren, Williams.

Consulted was the Carlton Football Club's online heritage site, Blueseum which published the 1887 season results for the first-20 VFA competition, which Carlton were the leading club in 1887. Both Williamstown and Hotham football clubs, involving Guest family members that year, performed in the top half of clubs. Williamston faired a little better than North with the Blueseum published table below taken as evidence. This was to be Carlton's last premiership until the Jack Worrall coached side of 1906:



1887 Ladder

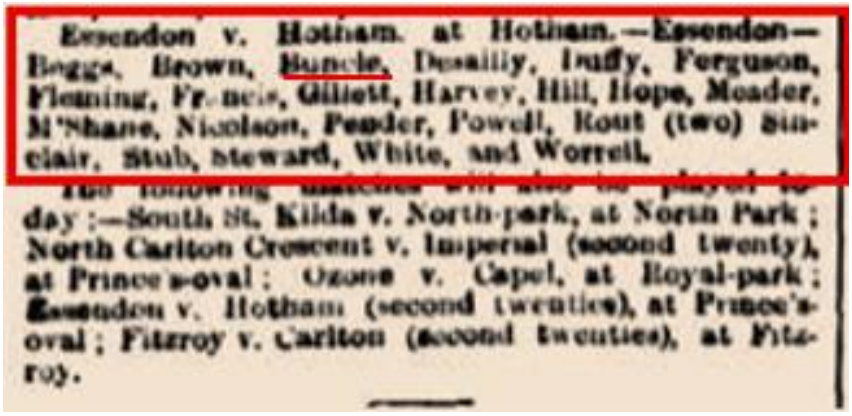
Pos	Team	Played	Wins	Losses	Draws	Goals For	Goals Against
1	Carlton	25	20	2	3	136	73
2	Geelong	23	18	2	3	123	63
3	South Melbourne	20	12	4	4	103	54
4	Fitzroy	22	12	5	5	78	61
5	Port Melbourne	22	14	6	2	107	55
6	Williamstown	20	9	8	3	67	76
7	Richmond	20	8	8	4	66	73
8	Hotham	21	7	10	4	84	92
9	Essendon	19	7	9	3	62	71
10	Melbourne	20	7	11	2	69	87
11	Prahran	18	5	11	2	69	75
12	St.Kilda	19	4	14	1	56	106
13	University	19	4	15	0	45	113
14	South Williamstown	18	3	13	2	35	78
15	Footscray	14	2	10	2	25	47
16	Ballarat	15	6	7	2	66	48
17	South Ballarat	12	4	3	5	55	45
18	Ballarat Imperials	14	6	5	3	53	51

Clubs had to play a minimum of 18 matches to qualify for the V.F.A. Premiership.

[340] FOOTBALL, WILLIAMSTOWN V SOUTH MELBOURNE, Williamstown Chronicle, Victoria, Saturday 20th August 1887, Page 2.

[341] Four ex-North Melbourne players Guest (one of three brothers), Peters, Tankard and Williams (one of two brothers) all playing with Williamstown Football Club against South Melbourne.

Featured in the report below, is Tom Buncle, Alfred's Buncle's brother. Tom also played for North before joining Essendon in 1887. Similar to his friend Archie Guest, a change may have been essential for him to secure a position in the competitive VFA football scene, where were more challenging to obtain at North during that period. Also slated to play Essendon FC on Saturday the 13th August 1887 is North (Hotham)'s second-20 team. The latter match at Princes Park and the former at Arden Street:[342]



Essendon v. Hotham at Hotham.—Essendon—Boggs, Brown, Buncle, Donnelly, Duffy, Ferguson, Fleming, Francis, Gillett, Harvey, Hill, Hope, Meader, M'Shane, Nicolson, Pender, Powell, Rout (two) Sinclair, Stub, Steward, White, and Worrell.

day:—South St. Kilda v. North-park, at North Park; North Carlton Crescent v. Imperial (second twenty), at Prince's-oval; Ozone v. Capel, at Royal-park; Essendon v. Hotham (second twenties), at Prince's-oval; Fitzroy v. Carlton (second twenties), at Fitzroy.

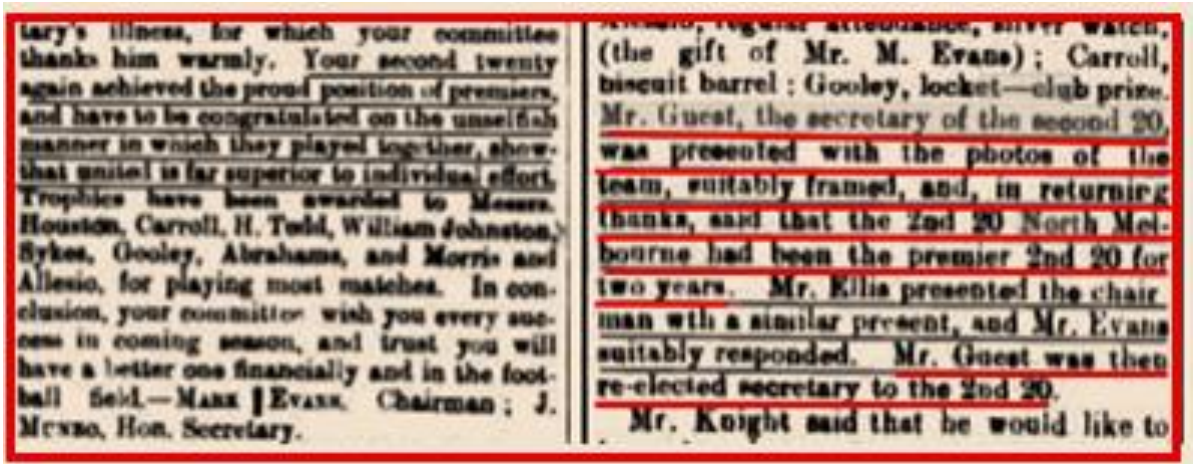
As mention prior, Archie's brother Jack continued to coach the North Melbourne second-20 team for the 1888 season, whilst older brother Will Guest probably played his last season in 1887, and perhaps an occasional player in his brother's second-20 side.

The following years 1888, Will begins his second football career as a first-20 goal umpire with the VFA. Whilst the second-20 side Jack Guest (1862-1922), coached won its second premiership in a row in 1887, Hotham's first-20 had a mediocre year.

1888

Jack Guest's recognition as North's first back-to-back premiership coach

The newspaper article below of 1888 shows him receiving from his players at the Club's annual general a framed photograph of his back-to-back premiership winning team and being re-appointed for the 1888 VFA Season: [343]



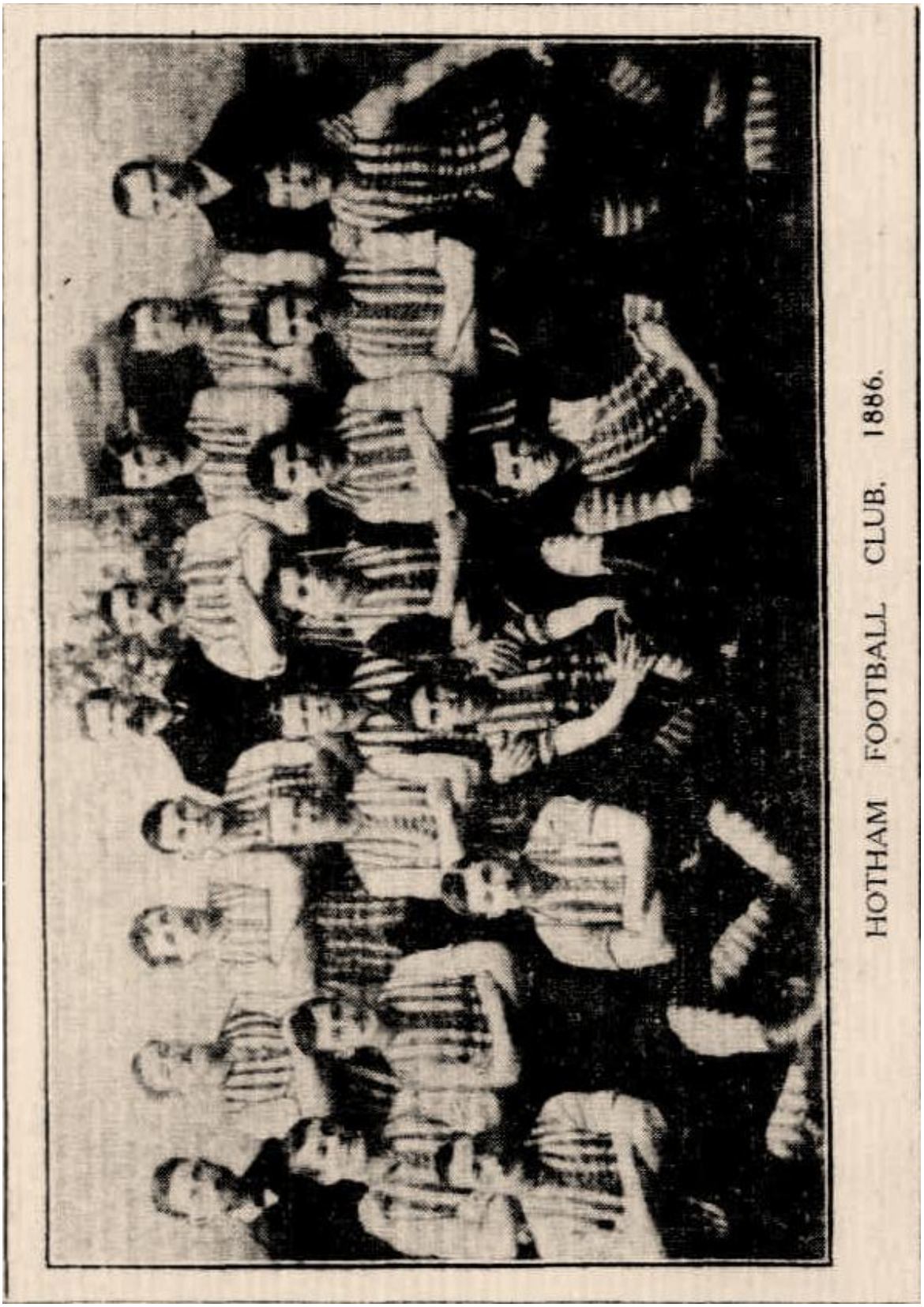
tary's illness, for which your committee thanks him warmly. Your second twenty again achieved the proud position of premiers, and have to be congratulated on the unselfish manner in which they played together, showing that united is far superior to individual effort. Trophies have been awarded to Messrs. Houston, Carroll, H. Todd, William Johnston, Sykes, Gooley, Abrahams, and Morris and Allesio, for playing most matches. In conclusion, your committee wish you every success in coming season, and trust you will have a better one financially and in the football field.—Mark Evans, Chairman; J. Munro, Hon. Secretary.

(the gift of Mr. M. Evans); Carroll, biscuit barrel; Gooley, locket—club prize. Mr. Guest, the secretary of the second 20, was presented with the photos of the team, suitably framed, and, in returning thanks, said that the 2nd 20 North Melbourne had been the premier 2nd 20 for two years. Mr. Ellis presented the chairman with a similar present, and Mr. Evans suitably responded. Mr. Guest was then re-elected secretary to the 2nd 20.

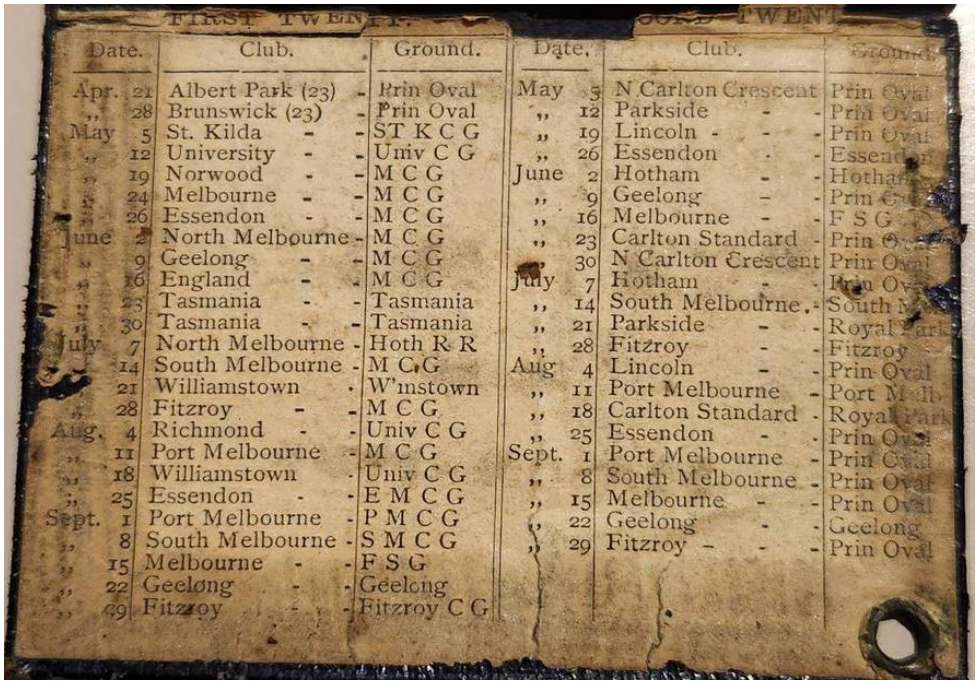
Mr. Knight said that he would like to

[342] FOOTBALL, The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 13th August 1887, Page 11.
[343] FOOTBALL, North Melbourne Advertiser, Saturday 31st March 1888, Page 3, North Melbourne Football Club, Mr Guest, Secretary of the Second Twenty, premiers two years running.

The photograph below bis the 1886 second-20 team coached by Jack Guest (1862-1922) celebrating their first of two consecutive premierships in 1886. Jack is seen in a suit, in center of the back row. His younger brother, Archie Guest (1866-1932), who was 20 years old at the time, is sitting front row with his hands clasped on his knees. Their elder brother Will, also in a suit and tie like Jack, can be found in the back row on the far right:



Submitted next is Carlton Football Club's 1888 fixture for the first-20 and competitions. Noteworthy is that North Melbourne Football Club's first-20 are so named and keeping with their recent tradition for the most part during the 1870s the second-20 team taking to the field branded as Hotham, but did revert back to its original North Melbourne name in 1888: [344][345] [346]



Date.	Club.	Ground.
Apr. 21	Albert Park (23)	Prin Oval
,, 28	Brunswick (23)	Prin Oval
May 5	St. Kilda	ST K C G
,, 12	University	Univ C G
,, 19	Norwood	M C G
,, 24	Melbourne	M C G
,, 26	Essendon	M C G
June 2	North Melbourne	M C G
,, 9	Geelong	M C G
,, 16	England	M C G
,, 23	Tasmania	Tasmania
,, 30	Tasmania	Tasmania
July 7	North Melbourne	Hoth R R
,, 14	South Melbourne	M C G
,, 21	Williamstown	W'mstown
,, 28	Fitzroy	M C G
Aug. 4	Richmond	Univ C G
,, 11	Port Melbourne	M C G
,, 18	Williamstown	Univ C G
,, 25	Essendon	E M C G
Sept. 1	Port Melbourne	P M C G
,, 8	South Melbourne	S M C G
,, 15	Melbourne	F S G
,, 22	Geelong	Geelong
,, 29	Fitzroy	Fitzroy C G

Date.	Club.	Ground.
May 5	N Carlton Crescent	Prin Oval
,, 12	Parkside	Prin Oval
,, 19	Lincoln	Prin Oval
,, 26	Essendon	Essendon
June 2	Hotham	Hotham
,, 9	Geelong	Prin Oval
,, 16	Melbourne	F S G
,, 23	Carlton Standard	Prin Oval
,, 30	N Carlton Crescent	Prin Oval
July 7	Hotham	Prin Oval
,, 14	South Melbourne	South M.
,, 21	Parkside	Royal Park
,, 28	Fitzroy	Fitzroy
Aug 4	Lincoln	Prin Oval
,, 11	Port Melbourne	Port Melb
,, 18	Carlton Standard	Royal Park
,, 25	Essendon	Prin Oval
Sept. 1	Port Melbourne	Prin Oval
,, 8	South Melbourne	Prin Oval
,, 15	Melbourne	Prin Oval
,, 22	Geelong	Geelong
,, 29	Fitzroy	Prin Oval

Shown below is Archie Guest [347] found to have held his place in the first-20 team for Williamstown Football Club competing in Australia's elite VFA competition in 1888: [348] [349] [350]

Williamstown v Melbourne.—To be played on the M. C. ground; meet at Spencer street at 2.15. Team :— Batterworth, Cooper, Currie, Claringbould, Edwards, Freeth, Fryer, Gibbs, Guest, Griffin, Henderson, W. H. Jones, Munro, Orr, Outrim, Pierce, Peters, Reid, Smith, Sutton, Skinner, Ward, Warren, Williams, Williamson.

[344] 150: The North Name, 2019. February 8 2019. North Melbourne Football Club Official Website. https://www.nmfc.com.au/news/57386/150-the-north-name.

[345] Image credit, Blueseum.

[346] Hotham R. R. is Arden Street Oval North Melbourne, FSG is Friendly Societies Ground (Olympic Park area) as advised by Blueseum, Carlton Football Club's 1888 Heritage.

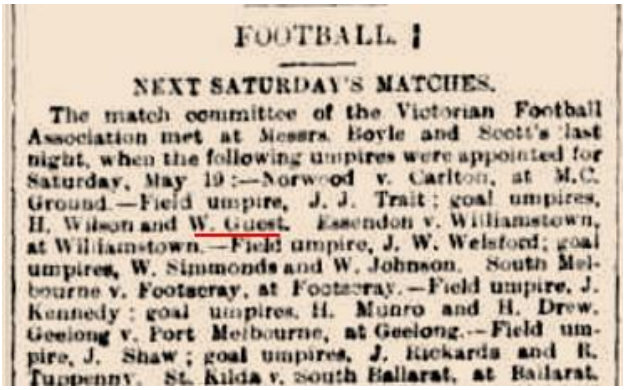
[347] Due to late marriages, the genealogical connection between and Archie's son Jack and his son, the current author, remains rare. As of 2025, despite being only one generation apart from his grandfather born in 1866, there exists unusually a 159-year span between the grandfather and grandson.

[348] FOOTBALL, Williamstown Advertiser, Victoria, Saturday 21st April 1888, Page 3.

[349] Williamstown player Munro is suspected to be the ex-North Melbourne [Hotham] player Munro who disappeared from the NMFC record after season 1884.

[350] Due to patchy records recovery for Williamstown Football Club's games across newspaper for this period, uncertain is whether he was a week-in-week regular in the first-20 side.

On the 15th May 1888 Will Guest[351] is further confirmed is officiating at one of his early first-20 matches as a goal umpire. That day he journeyed to Williamstown to officiate in the Williamstown clash against Essendon in the VFA: [352]

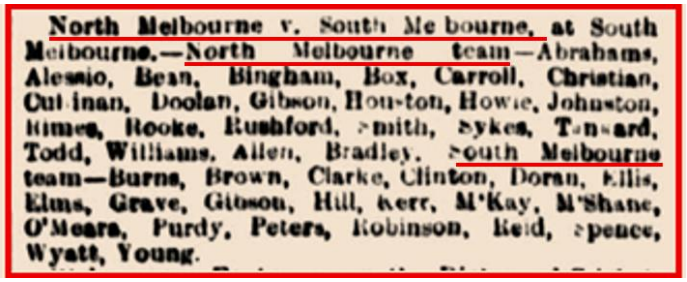


FOOTBALL.

NEXT SATURDAY'S MATCHES.

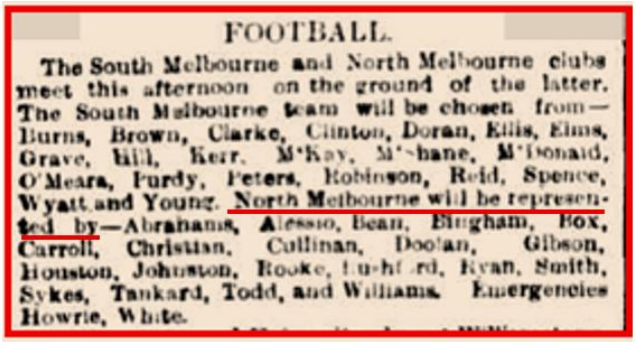
The match committee of the Victorian Football Association met at Messrs. Boyle and Scott's last night, when the following umpires were appointed for Saturday, May 19:—Norwood v. Carlton, at M.C.C. Ground.—Field umpire, J. J. Trait; goal umpires, H. Wilson and W. Guest. Essendon v. Williamstown, at Williamstown.—Field umpire, J. W. Welsford; goal umpires, W. Simmonds and W. Johnson. South Melbourne v. Footscray, at Footscray.—Field umpire, J. Kennedy; goal umpires, H. Munro and H. Drew. Geelong v. Port Melbourne, at Geelong.—Field umpire, J. Shaw; goal umpires, J. Rickards and R. Tuppenny. St. Kilda v. South Ballarat, at Ballarat.

For North Melbourne in 1888, The Argus informs that on Saturday the 21st July 1888, North encountered South Melbourne Football Club on South's ground. That day they selected the following players to represent North: Abrahams, Alessio, Bean, Bingham, Box, Carroll, Christian, Cullinan, Doolan, Gibson, Houston, Howie, Johnston, Rimes, Rooke, Rushford, Smith, Sykes, Tankard, Todd, Williams, Allen, and Bradley: [353]



North Melbourne v. South Melbourne, at South Melbourne.—North Melbourne team—Abrahams, Alessio, Bean, Bingham, Box, Carroll, Christian, Cullinan, Doolan, Gibson, Houston, Howie, Johnston, Rimes, Rooke, Rushford, Smith, Sykes, Tankard, Todd, Williams, Allen, Bradley. South Melbourne team—Burns, Brown, Clarke, Clinton, Doran, Ellis, Elms, Grave, Gibson, Hill, Kerr, M'Kay, M'Shane, O'Meara, Purdy, Peters, Robinson, Reid, Spence, Wyatt, Young.

North Melbourne played South Melbourne at South Melbourne on the 29th September 1888 and picked to play that day for North were: Abrahams, Alessio, Bean, Bingham, Box, Carroll, Christian, Cullinan, Doolan, Gibson, Houston, Johnston, Rooke, Rushford, Ryan, Smith, Sykes, Tankard, Todd, and Williams. Emergencies were Howrie and White: [354]



FOOTBALL.

The South Melbourne and North Melbourne clubs meet this afternoon on the ground of the latter. The South Melbourne team will be chosen from—Burns, Brown, Clarke, Clinton, Doran, Ellis, Elms, Grave, Hill, Kerr, M'Kay, M'Shane, M'Donald, O'Meara, Purdy, Peters, Robinson, Reid, Spence, Wyatt and Young. North Melbourne will be represented by—Abrahams, Alessio, Bean, Bingham, Box, Carroll, Christian, Cullinan, Doolan, Gibson, Houston, Johnston, Rooke, Rushford, Ryan, Smith, Sykes, Tankard, Todd, and Williams. Emergencies Howrie, White.

[351] FLEMINGTON & KENSINGTON FIRE BRIGADES, North Melbourne Advertiser, Victoria, Saturday 21st January 1888, Page 2 - Will Guest is found in his volunteer roles as a firefighter.
[352] FOOTBALL, WILLIAMSTOWN v ESSENDON, The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria, Tuesday 15th May 1888, Page 5.
[353] FOOTBALL SOUTH MELBOURNE v NORTH MELBOURE, The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 21st July 1888, Page 12.
[354] FOOTBALL SOUTH MELBOURNE v NORTH MELBOURNE, The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 29th September 1888, Page 20.

1889

More aboout Will & Archie Guest's football days

Records for 1889 for either North Melbourne or Williamstown Football Clubs listing players are scant and not forthcoming for either Jack or Archie Guest. Brother Will Guest however, is found in the newspaper selected to officiated in the VFA first-20 VFA match at the MCG in the game between Carlton v Melbourne on Saturday 31st May 1889: [355]

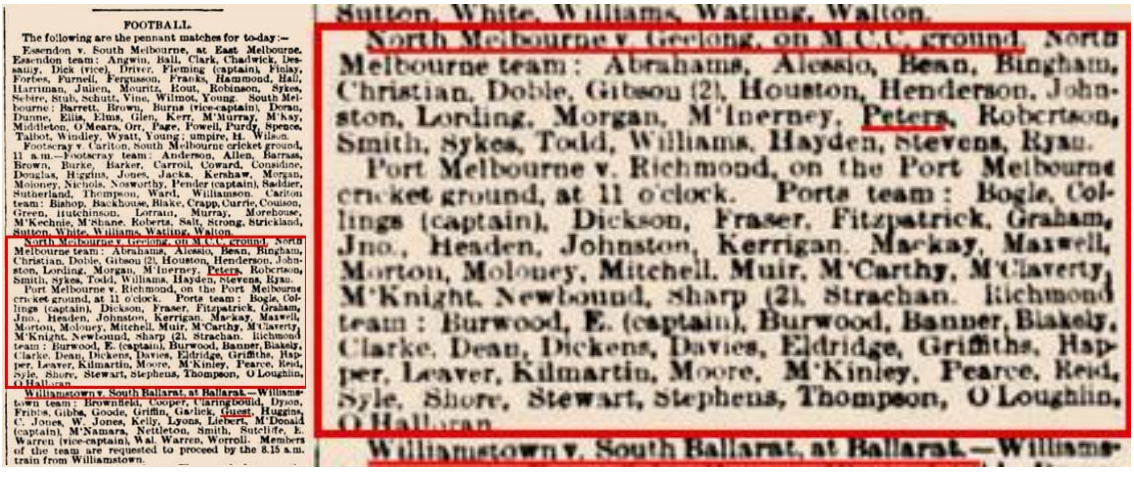
Barrass, J. Woods. Carlton v. Essendon, Melbourne Cricket-ground; field umpire, J. J. Trait; goal umpires, M. Little, W. Guest. South Melbourne v. Melbourne, South Melbourne Cricket-ground; field umpire, H. Wilson; goal umpires, G. Heron, J. Mackrell. Geelong v. Ballarat, Ballarat; field umpire, J. Kennedy; goal umpires, H. O'Bern, H. Hems. Richmond v. Footscray, Richmond Cricket-ground; field umpire, P. H. Roy; goal umpires, H. Drew, T. Moloney. Permits were granted to the following:— W. H. Jones, A. Mackenzie, E. J. Keogh, G. Beau, H. Munro, J. Pall.

1890

Supplemental information about Archie Guest

Archie Guest (1866-1932) is found once more selected to play for the first-20 for Williamstown in the VFA in 1890 against South Ballarat Football Club . Archie Guest is one of the Williamstown players to assemble to take the train to South Ballarat.

Also cited along with the Williamstown v South Ballarat game is the clash between North Melbourne and Geelong. It shows Archie Guest's ex-Hotham and ex-Williamstown team mate, Tom "Dutchy" Peters, picked to play against Geelong after returning to play for North after leaving Williamstown at the end of the 1887 season: [356] [357]



FOOTBALL.

The following are the pennant matches for to-day:—

Essendon v. South Melbourne, at East Melbourne. Essendon team: Angwin, Ball, Clark, Chadwick, Dessaug, Dick (vice), Driver, Fleming (captain), Finlay, Forbes, Furnell, Fergusson, Franks, Hammond, Hall, Harriman, Julien, Mouritz, Rout, Robinson, Sykes, Sebire, Stub, Schutt, Vine, Wilmot, Young. South Melbourne: Barrett, Brown, Burns (vice-captain), Doran, Dunne, Ellis, Elms, Glen, Kerr, M'Murray, M'kay, Middleton, O'Meara, Orr, Page, Powell, Purdy, Spence, Talbot, Windley, Wyatt, Young; umpire, H. Wilson.

Footscray v. Carlton, South Melbourne cricket ground, 11 a.m.—Footscray team: Anderson, Allen, Barrass, Brown, Burke, Barker, Carroll, Coward, Considine, Douglas, Higgins, Jones, Jacks, Kershaw, Morgan, Moloney, Nichols, Nesworthy, Pender (captain), Saddler, Sutherland, Thompson, Ward, Williamson. Carlton team: Bishop, Backhouse, Blake, Crapp, Currie, Coulson, Green, Hutchinson, Lorrain, Murray, Morehouse, M'Kechnie, M'Shane, Roberts, Salt, Strong, Strickland, Sutton, White, Williams, Watling, Walton.

North Melbourne v. Geelong, on M.C.C. ground. North Melbourne team: Abrahams, Alessio, Bean, Bingham, Christian, Doble, Gibson (2), Houston, Henderson, Johnston, Lording, Morgan, M'Inerney, Peters, Robertson, Smith, Sykes, Todd, Williams, Hayden, Stevens, Ryan.

Port Melbourne v. Richmond, on the Port Melbourne cricket ground, at 11 o'clock. Ports team: Bogle, Collings (captain), Dickson, Fraser, Fitzpatrick, Graham, Jno., Headen, Johnston, Kerrigan, Mackay, Maxwell, Morton, Moloney, Mitchell, Muir, M'Carthy, M'Claverty, M'Knight, Newbound, Sharp (2), Strachan. Richmond team: Burwood, E. (captain), Burwood, Banner, Blakely, Clarke, Dean, Dickens, Davies, Eldridge, Griffiths, Happer, Leaver, Kilmartin, Moore, M'Kinley, Pearce, Reid, Syle, Shore, Stewart, Stephens, Thompson, O'Loughlin, O'Halloran.

Williamstown v. South Ballarat, at Ballarat.—Williamstown team: Brownfield, Cooper, Claringbold, Dyson, Fribbs, Gibbs, Goode, Griffin, Garlick, Guest, Huggins, C. Jones, W. Jones, Kelly, Lyons, Liebert, M'Donald (captain), M'Namara, Nettleton, Smith, Sutcliffe, E. Warren (vice-captain), Wal. Warren, Worroll. Members of the team are requested to proceed by the 8.15 a.m. train from Williamstown.

Sutton, White, Williams, Watling, Walton.

North Melbourne v. Geelong, on M.C.C. ground. North Melbourne team: Abrahams, Alessio, Bean, Bingham, Christian, Doble, Gibson (2), Houston, Henderson, Johnston, Lording, Morgan, M'Inerney, Peters, Robertson, Smith, Sykes, Todd, Williams, Hayden, Stevens, Ryan.

Port Melbourne v. Richmond, on the Port Melbourne cricket ground, at 11 o'clock. Ports team: Bogle, Collings (captain), Dickson, Fraser, Fitzpatrick, Graham, Jno., Headen, Johnston, Kerrigan, Mackay, Maxwell, Morton, Moloney, Mitchell, Muir, M'Carthy, M'Claverty, M'Knight, Newbound, Sharp (2), Strachan. Richmond team: Burwood, E. (captain), Burwood, Banner, Blakely, Clarke, Dean, Dickens, Davies, Eldridge, Griffiths, Happer, Leaver, Kilmartin, Moore, M'Kinley, Pearce, Reid, Syle, Shore, Stewart, Stephens, Thompson, O'Loughlin, O'Halloran.

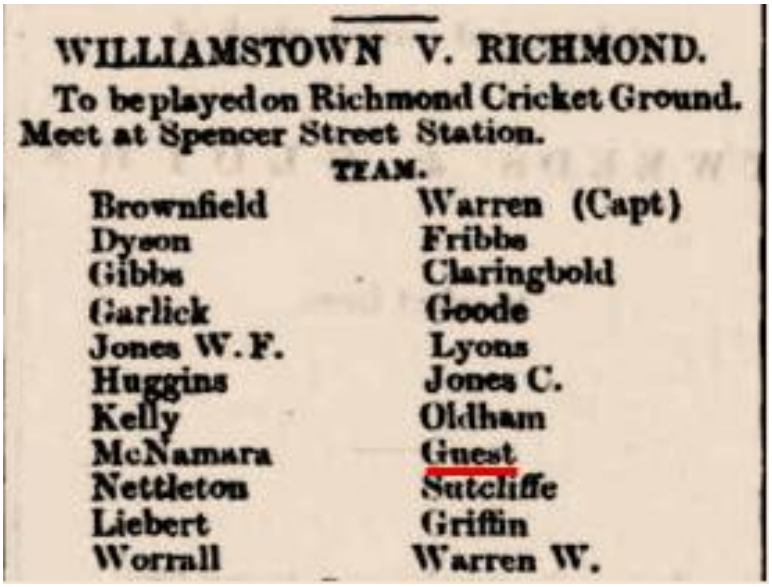
Williamstown v. South Ballarat, at Ballarat.—Williams-

[355] SPORTING INTELLIGENCE. The Argus, Melbourne, Victoria, Tuesday 28th May 1889, Page 10.

[356] Ibid, FOOTBALL, The Age, Melbourne, Victoria, Saturday 24th May 1890, Page 10.

[357] The author suspects "Sutcliffe, is R.W. Sutcliffe, brother of North Melbourne player, A. Sutcliffe and son of R.W. Sutcliffe, NMFC & CC stalwart and hotelier of Flemington Road Hotham. R.W. Sutcliffe, born 1860, is a schoolboy friend of Archie Guest's older brother Will Guest, born 1860.

Next Archie is identified as playing first-20 for Williamstown against Richmond on the Richmond Cricket Ground (Punt Road Oval) on Saturday the 14th June 1890: [358]



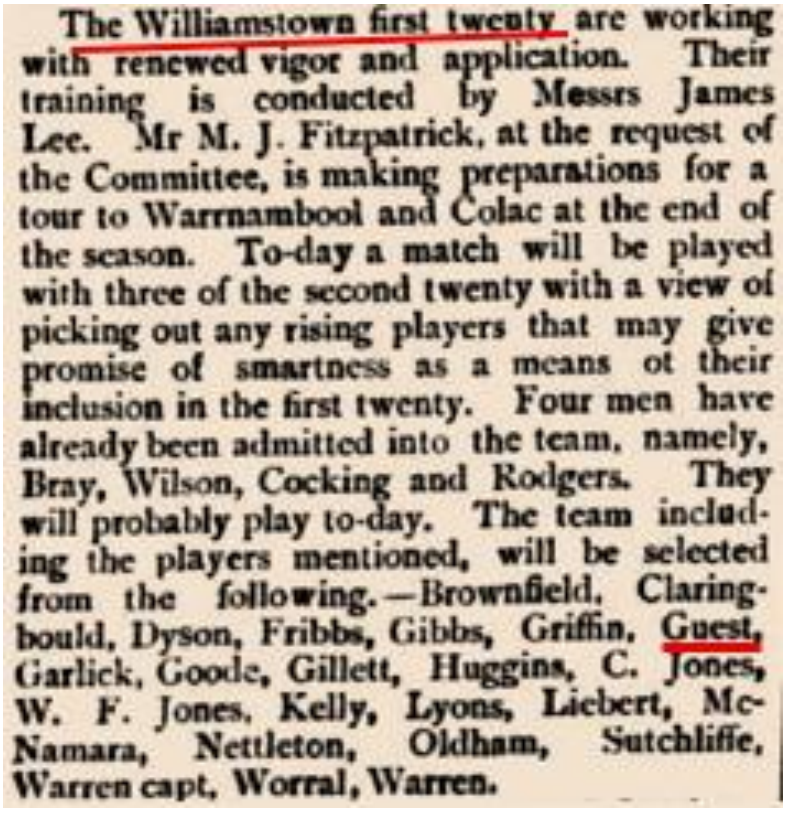
WILLIAMSTOWN V. RICHMOND.

To be played on Richmond Cricket Ground.
Meet at Spencer Street Station.

TEAM.

Brownfield	Warren (Capt)
Dyson	Fribbs
Gibbs	Claringbold
Garlick	Goode
Jones W. F.	Lyons
Huggins	Jones C.
Kelly	Oldham
McNamara	Guest
Nettleton	Sutcliffe
Liebert	Griffin
Worrall	Warren W.

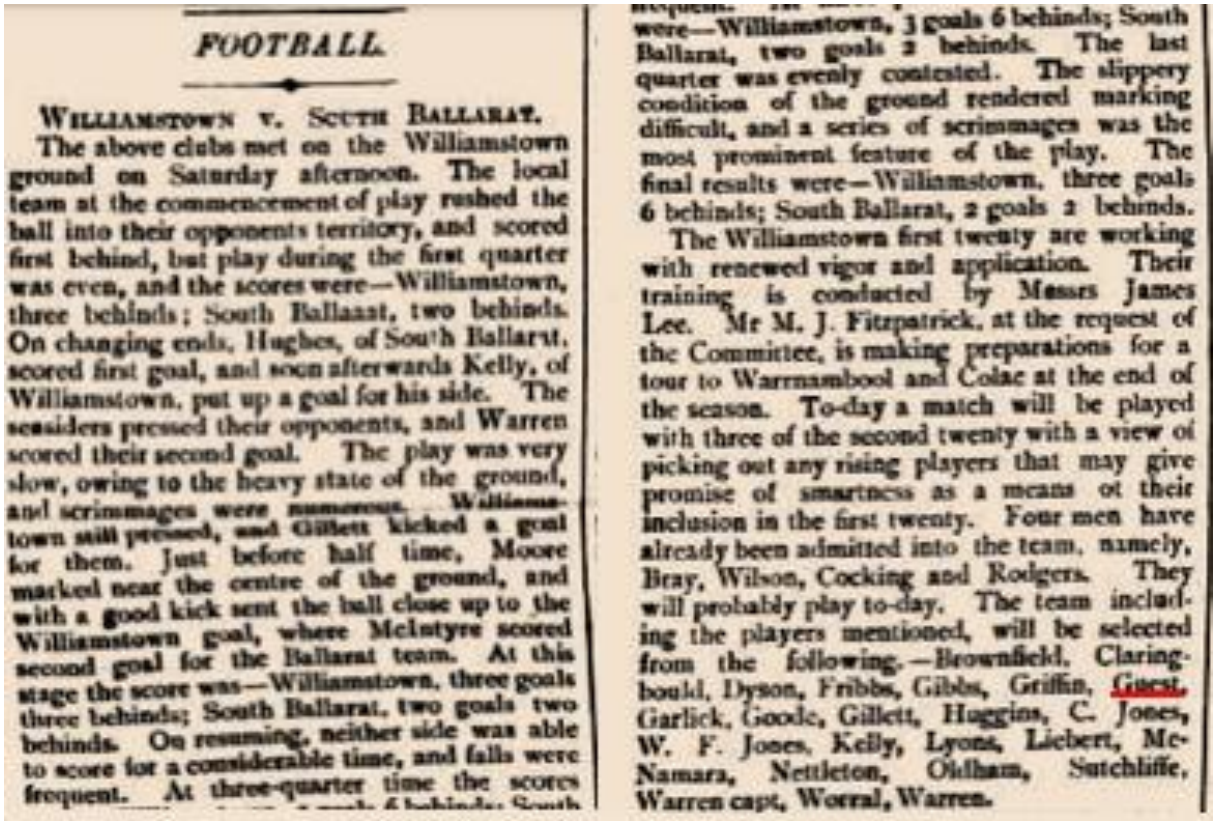
Reported in the Williamstown Advertiser on Saturday 28th June 1890 was the first-20 teams renewed vigour and application. Archie was picked for the first-20 to tour Warrnambool and Colac in Western Victoria, with several second-20 players identifies as capable of stepping up to the top level in the VFA competition: [359]



The Williamstown first twenty are working with renewed vigor and application. Their training is conducted by Messrs James Lee. Mr M. J. Fitzpatrick, at the request of the Committee, is making preparations for a tour to Warrnambool and Colac at the end of the season. To-day a match will be played with three of the second twenty with a view of picking out any rising players that may give promise of smartness as a means of their inclusion in the first twenty. Four men have already been admitted into the team, namely, Bray, Wilson, Cocking and Rodgers. They will probably play to-day. The team including the players mentioned, will be selected from the following.—Brownfield, Claringbould, Dyson, Fribbs, Gibbs, Griffin, Guest, Garlick, Goode, Gillett, Huggins, C. Jones, W. F. Jones, Kelly, Lyons, Liebert, McNamara, Nettleton, Oldham, Sutchliffe, Warren capt, Worral, Warren.

[358] WILLIAMSTOWN V. RICHMOND, Williamstown Chronicle, Victoria, Saturday 14th June 1890, Page 3.
[359] Williamstown Advertiser, Victoria, Saturday 28th June 1890, Page 3.

The game "to-day," referred to above was the clash between Williamstown and South Ballarat the host playing at home. The newspaper clipping below accounts further for Archie selected in the first-20 that day: [360] [361]



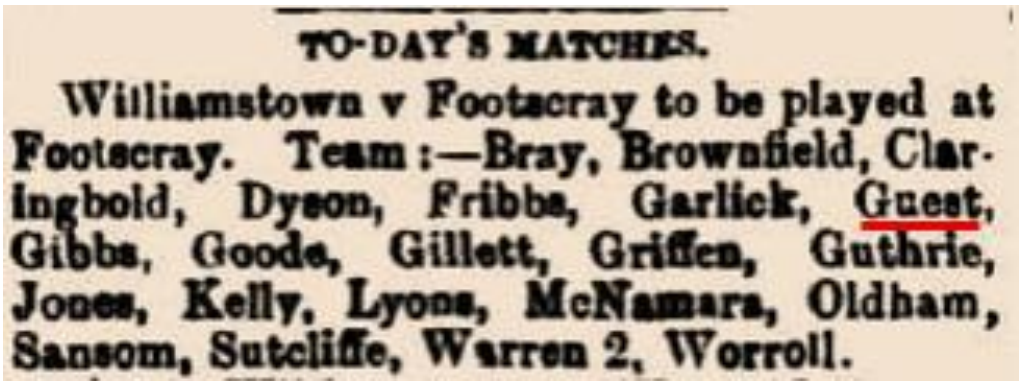
FOOTBALL.

WILLIAMSTOWN v. SOUTH BALLARAT.

The above clubs met on the Williamstown ground on Saturday afternoon. The local team at the commencement of play rushed the ball into their opponents territory, and scored first behind, but play during the first quarter was even, and the scores were—Williamstown, three behinds; South Ballaast, two behinds. On changing ends, Hughes, of South Ballarat, scored first goal, and soon afterwards Kelly, of Williamstown, put up a goal for his side. The seaside pressed their opponents, and Warren scored their second goal. The play was very slow, owing to the heavy state of the ground, and scrimmages were numerous. Williamstown still pressed, and Gillett kicked a goal for them. Just before half time, Moore marked near the centre of the ground, and with a good kick sent the ball close up to the Williamstown goal, where McIntyre scored second goal for the Ballarat team. At this stage the score was—Williamstown, three goals three behinds; South Ballarat, two goals two behinds. On resuming, neither side was able to score for a considerable time, and falls were frequent. At three-quarter time the scores were—Williamstown, 3 goals 6 behinds; South Ballarat, two goals 2 behinds. The last quarter was evenly contested. The slippery condition of the ground rendered marking difficult, and a series of scrimmages was the most prominent feature of the play. The final results were—Williamstown, three goals 6 behinds; South Ballarat, 2 goals 2 behinds.

The Williamstown first twenty are working with renewed vigor and application. Their training is conducted by Messrs James Lee. Mr M. J. Fitzpatrick, at the request of the Committee, is making preparations for a tour to Warrnambool and Colac at the end of the season. To-day a match will be played with three of the second twenty with a view of picking out any rising players that may give promise of smartness as a means of their inclusion in the first twenty. Four men have already been admitted into the team, namely, Bray, Wilson, Cocking and Rodgers. They will probably play to-day. The team including the players mentioned, will be selected from the following.—Brownfield, Claringbould, Dyson, Fribbs, Gibbs, Griffin, Guest, Garlick, Goode, Gillett, Huggins, C. Jones, W. F. Jones, Kelly, Lyons, Liebert, McNamara, Nettleton, Oldham, Sutchliffe, Warren capt, Worral, Warren.

Remaining with Archie, he was picked to play also against Footscray at Footscray on Saturday the 9th August 1890, giving a strong indication once he settled in in 1887, he became a regular first-20 player for Williamstown after arriving there from North Melbourne in 1887:[362]



TO-DAY'S MATCHES.

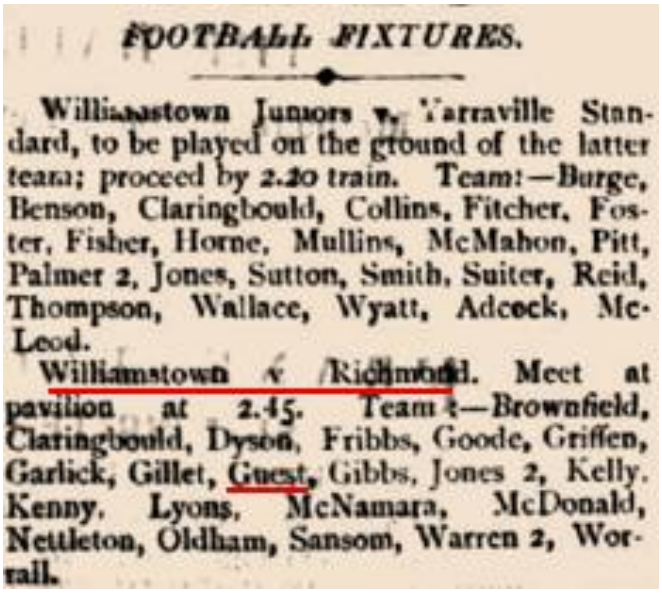
Williamstown v Footscray to be played at Footscray. Team:—Bray, Brownfield, Claringbold, Dyson, Fribbs, Garlick, Guest, Gibbs, Goode, Gillett, Griffen, Guthrie, Jones, Kelly, Lyons, McNamara, Oldham, Sansom, Sutcliffe, Warren 2, Worroll.

[360] FOOTBALL, Williamstown v South Ballarat, Williamstown Advertiser, Victoria, Saturday the 28th June 1890, Page 3.

[361] SENIOR FOOTBALL WILLIAMSTOWN v SOUTH BALLARAT, Sportsman, Melbourne, Victoria, Wednesday 25th June 1890, Page 6, Player: "Guest, A," Williamstown Football Club, First-20, https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/227926111#

[362] TO-DAY'S MATCHES, Williamstown v Footscray, Williamstown Advertiser, Victoria, Saturday 9th August 1890, Page 3.

Again, Archie, aged 24 years and 7 months in August 1890 was selected to play the return match against Richmond on Saturday 16th August at Williamstown:[363]

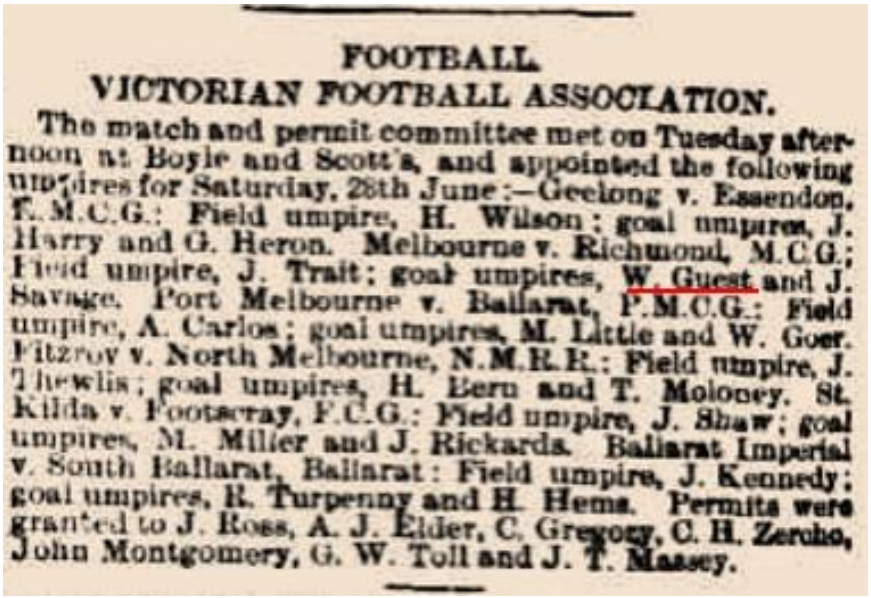


FOOTBALL FIXTURES.

Williamstown Juniors v. Yarraville Standard, to be played on the ground of the latter team; proceed by 2.20 train. Team:—Burge, Benson, Claringbould, Collins, Fitcher, Foster, Fisher, Horne, Mullins, McMahon, Pitt, Palmer 2, Jones, Sutton, Smith, Suiter, Reid, Thompson, Wallace, Wyatt, Adcock, McLeod.

Williamstown v Richmond. Meet at pavilion at 2.45. Team:—Brownfield, Claringbould, Dyson, Fribbs, Goode, Griffen, Garlick, Gillet, Guest, Gibbs, Jones 2, Kelly, Kenny, Lyons, McNamara, McDonald, Nettleton, Oldham, Sansom, Warren 2, Worrall.

Whilst that same day, his elder brother and North Melbourne Football Club stalwart of the time, Will Guest (1860-1922) is further found officiating as goal umpire in the first-20 game Melbourne v Richmond at the M.C.G (Melbourne Cricket Ground): [364]



FOOTBALL.

VICTORIAN FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION.

The match and permit committee met on Tuesday afternoon at Boyle and Scott's, and appointed the following umpires for Saturday, 28th June:—Geelong v. Essendon, E.M.C.G.: Field umpire, H. Wilson; goal umpires, J. Harry and G. Heron. Melbourne v. Richmond, M.C.G.; Field umpire, J. Trait; goal umpires, W. Guest and J. Savage. Port Melbourne v. Ballarat, P.M.C.G.: Field umpire, A. Carlos; goal umpires, M. Little and W. Goer. Fitzroy v. North Melbourne, N.M.R.R.: Field umpire, J. Thewlis; goal umpires, H. Beru and T. Moloney. St. Kilda v. Footscray, F.C.G.: Field umpire, J. Shaw; goal umpires, M. Miller and J. Rickards. Ballarat Imperial v. South Ballarat, Ballarat: Field umpire, J. Kennedy; goal umpires, R. Turpenny and H. Hems. Permits were granted to J. Ross, A. J. Elder, C. Gregory, C. H. Zercho, John Montgomery, G. W. Toll and J. T. Massey.

This brings readers closer to the conclusion of the updated narrative of the North Melbourne Football Club's early years, spanning 1855 to 1888. is hoped that this book will be considered a valuable companion to Gerard Dowling's last update of the North Story, which was published 28 years ago in 1997. The final section features a series of virtual honour boards that pay tribute to the founders, players, and early members of the club whose contributions are nearly forgotten in history.

[363] FOOTBALL FIXTURES, Williamstown v Richmond, Williamstown Advertiser, Victoria, Saturday 16th August 1890, Page 2.
[364] FOOTBALL, The Age, Melbourne, Victoria, Thursday 26th June 1890, Page 6.

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NORTH MELBOURNE CLUB'S EARLY PIONEERS REMEMBERED

NORTH MELBOURNE FOOTBALL CLUB

Elected Office Bearers 1855* – 1888

**Denotes cricket club formation 22nd November 1855. The football club commenced as early as the subsequent year and is recorded in 1858. The football legally held authority over the cricket club from 1879.*

1856*	Mr. F.T. Gell (Founder)	President
1866	Mr. J. McIndoe.	Secretary, Delegate ASC
1869	Mr. H. Fuhrhop.	Captain First-20
1869	Mr. R.J. Alcock, Esq.	Organiser and cricket club liaison.
1869	Mr. J. Charles.	Committee
1871	Mr. J. McIndoe.	President
1871	Mr. Byrnes.	Committee
1871	Mr. Woods.	Vice-Captain First-20
1872	Mr. H. Fuhrhop.	Captain First-20
1872	Mr. Collins.	Captain Second-20
1872	Mr. Patterson.	Vice Captain Second-20
1873	Mr. H. Fuhrhop.	Captain First-20
1875	Mr. H. Fuhrhop	Captain First-20
1875	Mr. McLean	Vice-Captain First-20
1876	Mr. D. Bickford.	Captain First 20
1876	Mr. J.C. Steel.	Committee
1876	Mr. Carlisle.	Committee
1876	Mr. Geddes.	Committee
1876	Mr. Wylie.	Committee
1876	Mr. Marks.	President
1876	Mr. R. Purves.	Secretary
1876	Mr. Thompson.	Vice Captain Second 20
1876	Mr. Dellitt.	Vice President
1876	Mr. Pattison.	Vice President
1877	Mr. Dellitt.	Committee
1877	Mr. W. McLean.	Committee
1877	Mr. Robertson.	Committee
1877	Mr. Slattery.	Committee
1877	Mr. H. Fuhrhop.	Committee, Captain First-20
1877	Mr. W. McLean.	Vice Captain First 20
1877	Mr. R. Sutcliffe.	President
1877	Mr. W. Burdick.	Second-20 Coach (Team Secretary.)
1877	Mr. J. McIndoe.	Secretary, VFA Delegate
1877	Mr. J.H. Gardiner.	Treasurer, VFA Delegate
1877	Mr. Dobson	Vice President
1877	Mr. Gillman	Vice President
1877	Mr. Hastings	Vice President

NORTH MELBOURNE FOOTBALL CLUB

Elected Office Bearers 1855* – 1888

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1877	Mr. Talbot	Vice President
1879	Mr. J.H. Gardiner	Treasurer
1880	Dr. S.J. Burke	Patron
1880	Mr. H. Wilson, J. P.	Patron
1880	Mr. J. Laurens, M.L.A.	Patron
1880	Mr. R. Sutcliffe.	President
1880	Mr. H. Fuhrhop.	Committee, Match Committee, Captain, Player
1880	Mr. H.T. Jordan.	Committee
1880	Mr. Daniells.	Vice President
1880	Mr. W.T.H. Neely.	Honourable Secretary
1880	Mr. Bruce.	Match Committee/Player
1880	Mr. Byrne.	Committee, Match Committee, Player
1880	Mr. Collie.	Match Committee/Player
1880	Mr. Daly.	Vice President
1880	Mr. H. Groube.	Committee
1880	Mr. J.H. Gardiner.	Vice President, Honourable Treasurer.
1881	Mr. Launder.	Vice President.
1881	Lawrence, E.J.	Honourable Secretary.
1880	Mr. A. Ley.	Committee
1881	Mr. Skehan.	Second-2- Coach (Team Secretary)
1882	Mr. G. Bailey.	First-20 Vice-Captain
1882	Dr. S.J. Burke,.	Patron
1882	Mr. J. Craig.	First-20 Captain
1882	Mr. J. Laurens, M.L.A	Patron
1882	Mr. J. Munro, M.L.A.	Patron
1882	Mr. F. Poole.	Honourable Secreatary & Treasurer
1882	Mr. R. Sutcliffe.	President
1884	Mr. E. Harcourt.	President
1884	Mr. S. Butt.	Committee
1884	Mr. H. Fuhrhop.	Committee
1884	Mr. Munro.	Committee
1884	Mr. Todd.	Committee
1884	Mr. A. Young.	Committee
1884	Mr. H. Perkins.	Committee, Match Committee, Player
1884	Mr. D. Wilson.	Committee VFA Delegate
1884	Mr. E. O'Brien.	First-20 Vice-Captain
1884	Mr. A.E. Buncle.	Match Committee

NORTH MELBOURNE FOOTBALL CLUB

Elected Office Bearers 1855* – 1888

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1884	Mr. J. Shaw.	Match Committee, Player
1884	Mr. J.H. Gardiner.	Match Committee (Non-Player)
1884	Mr. F. Gray.	Secretary
1884	Mr. W.L. Guest.	Treasurer, VFA Delegate
1884	Mr. C.A. Atkin.	Vice President
1884	Mr. L.B. Coulsell.	Vice President
1884	Mr. B. Ellis.	Vice President
1884	Mr. M. Evans.	Vice President
1884	Mr. E. Fitzgerald.	Vice President
1884	Mr. Franks	Vice President
1884	Mr. J.H. Gardiner.	Vice President
1884	Mr. W.G. Rae.	Vice President
1885	Mr. Clements.	First-20 Coach (Team Secretary)
1886	Mr. E. Harcourt.	Committee
1886	Mr. R. Sutcliffe.	Committee
1886	Mr. W.L. Guest.	Committee
1886	Mr. J.H. Gardiner.	Committee
1886	Mr. A.E. Buncle.	Committee
1886	Mr. J. Clements.	First-20 Coach (Team Secretary)
1886	Mr. M. Montgomerie.	President
1886	Mr. J.H. Guest.	Captain & Coach Second -20 (Premiers).
1887	Mr. J.H. Guest.	Coach Second – 20 (Premiers).
1888	Mr. M. Evans.	President
1888	Mr. J.H. Guest.	Coach Second -20 (Team Secretary)

NORTH MELBOURNE FOOTBALL CLUB

Pioneer Members 1855* – 1888

**Denotes cricket club formation 22nd November 1855. The football club commenced as early as the subsequent year and is recorded in 1858. The football legally held authority over the cricket club from 1879.*

FOUNDER NMCC & FC

1855 Gell, F.T. (Inaugural Pres.)

FOUNDATION MEMBERS NMCC & FC

1855 Barlow, H.
1855 Barrass, Mr.
1855 D' Assonville, Mr.
1855 Edward, Mr.
1855 Ellis, Angel
1855 Handfield, Rev.
1855 Hollis, Mr.
1855 King, Mr.
1855 Manton, Mr.
1855 Mattingley, Albert
1855 Puckle, Mr.,
1855 Puckle, E.
1855 Puckle, S.
1855 Short, A.
1855 Somers, Mr.
1855 Verdon, George [Sir]
1855 Watson, Mr.
1855 Wills, Mr.

1858

1855 White, J. (Snr)
1856 Guest, J.K.

1869

1869 Alcock, R.J. Esq.
1869 Charles, J.
1869 Fuhrhop, H.
1869 Guest. J.K.
1869 Perry, C.
1869 White, J. (the elder)

1870

1870 Brown, W.
1870 Charles, J.
1870 Crockett, T.
1870 Dellitt, Mr.
1870 Fallshaw, Mr.
1870 Fitzgerald, E.
1870 Forsyth, Mr.
1870 Froud, Mr.
1870 Greig, Mr.
1870 Griffith, Mr.
1870. Guest. J.K.
1870 Guy, H.
1870 Hassett, Mr.
1870 Healey, A.
1870 Marshall, S.
1870 Marshall, W.
1870 McCarthy, Mr.
1870 McGibbon, J.
1870 McGibbon, W.
1870 McInnes, Mr.
1870 Oliver, T.
1870 Oliver, W.
1870 Parish, Mr.
1870 Percy, Mr.
1870 Shanahan, Mr.
1870 Wallace, Mr.
1870 White, J. (the elder).
1870 White, R.
1870 Whitford, W.

NORTH MELBOURNE FOOTBALL CLUB

Pioneer Members 1855* – 1888

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1871

1871 Alcock, R.J. Esq.
1871 Armstrong, Mr.
1871 Bracken, L.J.
1871 Charles, J.
1871 Cross, Mr.
1871 Dobson, Mr.
1871 Gordon, Mr.
1871 Knowles, Mr.
1871 Massey, Mr.
1871 McIndoe, J. (John) (President)
1871 Wilkie, Mr.
1871 Murray, Mr.
1871 Patterson, Mr.
1871 Power, Mr.
1871 Pullen, Mr.
1871 Robertson, J.
1871 Ryan, M.
1871 Scatter, Mr.
1871 Simpson, Mr.
1871 Sullivan, Mr.
1871 Sutcliffe, R. (Richard).
1871 Wheeler, Mr.
1871 White, James (Jnr)
1871 Wood, Mr.
1871 Woods, Mr.

1872

1872 Alcock, R.J. Esq.
1872 Anderson, Mr.
1872 Cariss, Mr.
1872 Charles, J.
1872 Collins, Mr.
1872 Dangerfield, Mr.
1872 Dillon, Mr.
1872 Dott, Mr.
1872 Dott, Mr.
1872 Dott, Mr.
1872 Downing, Mr.
1872 Ford, Mr.
1872 Hastings, Mr.
1872 Lyons, Mr.
1872 Macgibbon, Mr.
1872 Neely, A. Mr.
1872 Raper, W.
1872 Rothwell, Mr.
1872 Slattery, Mr.
1872 Smart, Mr.
1872 Smith, J.
1872 Sutcliffe, A.
1872 Towle, Mr.
1872 Walker, A.
1872 Walker, J

NORTH MELBOURNE FOOTBALL CLUB Elected Office Bearers 1855* – 1888

**Denotes cricket club formation 22nd November 1855. The football club commenced as early as the subsequent year and is recorded in 1858. The football legally held authority over the cricket club from 1879. Listing are based on the member noted publicly in a contemporary newspaper article. Sporadic listing for other years or no further listing does not mean the person left the club or became a non member.*

1873

1873 Fuhrhop, H (Captain)
1873 Charles, J.
1873 Gardiner, J.H.

1874

1874 Absolum, Mr.
1874 Byrnes, Mr.
1874 Cavan, Mr.
1874 Charles, J.
1874 Deely, Mr.
1874 Fahey, Mr.
1874 Gardiner, J. H.
1874 Gillman, Mr.
1874 Greenaway, Mr.
1874 Hogan, Mr.
1874 Jefferson, Mr.
1874 Leonard, Mr.
1874 McLean, W.
1874 Pattison, Mr.
1874 Peeley, A.
1874 Riley, A.
1874 Scown, Mr.
1874 Thompson, Mr.
1874 Thurgarland, Mr.
1874 Tierney, Mr.
1874 Traynor, Mr.

1875

1875 Absalom, Mr.
1875 Andrews, Mr.
1875 Bickford, Mr.
1875 Bracken, W.
1875 Bracken, W.
1875 Byrne, Mr.
1875 Dellitt, Mr.
1875 Dillon, J (junior)
1875 Fitzgerald, Mr.
1875 Fuhrhop, H. (Captain)
1875 Gardiner, J.H.
1875 Gillman, Mr.
1875 Hassett, Mr.
1875 Hogan, Mr.
1875 Long, A.
1875 Lording, F.C.
1875 McLean, Mr. (Vice-Captain)
1875 Medway, Mr.
1875 Macgibbon, Mr.
1875 Paul, Mr.
1875 Pratt, Mr.
1875 Raper, W.
1875 Robertson, J.
1875 Sutcliffe, Mr.
1875 Thomson, Mr.
1875 Thurgarland, Mr.
1875 Traynor, Mr.
1875 Waugh, Mr.
1875 Wyle, Mr.

NORTH MELBOURNE FOOTBALL CLUB Elected Office Bearers 1855* – 1888

**Denotes cricket club formation 22nd November 1855. The football club commenced as early as the subsequent year and is recorded in 1858. The football legally held authority over the cricket club from 1879. Listing are based on the member noted publicly in a contemporary newspaper article. Sporadic listing for other years or no further listing does not mean the person left the club or became a non member.*

1876

1876	Adams, Mr.
1876	Bickford, D.
1876	Bickford, E.
1876	Brennan, Mr.
1876	Buncle, A.E.
1876	Butt, Sam
1876	Cox, Mr.
1876	Craig, J.
1876	Crosbie, Mr.
1876	Downie, Mr.
1876	Fiddler, Mr.
1876	Geddes, Mr.
1876	Guest, W.L.
1876	Harrat, Mr.
1876	Humphreys, Mr.
1876	Lancher, Mr.
1876	Lee, Mr.
1876	Ley, A.
1876	Ley, A.
1876	Lording, F.C.
1876	Lucas. C.
1876	Lynch, Mr.
1876	Mahoney, Mr.
1876	Mairn, Mr.
1876	Marks, Mr.
1876	McCarthy, W.
1876	McPherson, Mr.
1876	O'Brien, E.
1876	Pope, Mr.
1876	Purves, R.
1876	Rohan, Mr.
1876	Rohen, Mr.
1876	Steel, J.C.
1876	Stephens, Mr.

1876 (Cont.)

1876	Stevenson, Mr.
1876	Vaughan, Mr.
1876	Warner, C.
1876	Weston, Mr.
1876	Whylie, Mr.
1876	Wilson, D.
1876	Wylie, Mr.

1877

1877	Bruce, Mr.
1877	Burdick, W.
1878	Guest, W.L
1877	Grainger, Mr.
1877	Talbot, Mr.
1877	Tracey, Mr.

1878

1878	Green, Mr.
1878	Guest, J.H.
1878	Guest, W.L.
1878	Taylor, Mr.
1878	Waldron, Mr.

1879

1879	Gardiner, J.H. (Hon/Treasurer)
1879	O'Neill, Mr.
1879	Shaw, J.

NORTH MELBOURNE FOOTBALL CLUB

Pioneer Members 1855* – 1888

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1880

1880 Burke S.J., Dr (Patron)
1880 Wilson H. J. P. (Patron)
1880 Laurens, J. M.L.A (Patron)
1880 Sutcliffe, R. (President)
1880 Fuhrhop. H. (Gen/Match C'tee/Capt.)
1880 Jordan, H.T. (Gen C'tee.)
1880 Daniells, Mr. (Vice Pres.)
1880 Neely, W.T.H (Hon. Sec.)
1880 Bruce, Mr. (Match C'tee.)
1880 Byrne, Mr. (Gen/Match C'tee)
1880 Collie, Mr. (Match C'tee)
1880 Daly, Mr. (Vice Pres.)
1880 Groube, H. Mr. (Gen C'tee)
1880 Gardiner, J.H. (Vice Pres/Hon Treas.)
1880 Launder, Mr. (Vice Pres.)
1880 Ley, A. (Gen C'tee.)
1880 Skehan, Mr. (Second-20 Coach)
1880 Bailey, George
1880 Bayley, A.
1880 Bickford, Mr.
1880 Bickford, Mr.
1880 Buncle, A.E.
1880 Butt, S.
1880 Cooper, Mr.
1880 Craig, J.
1880 Crossby, Mr.
1880 Fuhrhop, H.
1880 Gardiner, J.H.
1880 Goding, Mr.
1880 Guest, W.L.
1880 Lording, F.C.
1880 McLean, Mr.
1880 Medway, Mr.

1880 (Cont.)

1880 McLean, Mr.
1880 Medway, Mr.
1880 Neely, Mr.
1880 O'Brien, Mr.
1880 O'Neil, Mr.
1880 Owens, Mr.
1880 Paterson, Mr.
1880 Pattison, Mr.
1880 Robertson, James
1880 Shaw, Mr.
1880 Shaw, Mr.
1880 Tomlins, Mr.
1880 Waldron, Mr.
1880 Walker, Mr.
1880 Whitney, Mr.

NORTH MELBOURNE FOOTBALL CLUB Elected Office Bearers 1855* – 1888

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1881

1881 Barnes, Mr.
1881 Bell, Mr.
1881 Boyd, Mr.
1881 Burns, Mr.
1881 Butt, S.
1881 Clarke, Mr.
1881 Denhert, Mr.
1881 Dodman, Mr.
1881 Fitzpatrick, Mr.
1881 Goding, Mr.
1881 Goodwin, Mr.
1881 Green, Mr.
1881 Horan, Mr.
1881 Howrie, Mr.
1881 Hutchinson, Mr.
1881 Gardiner, J.H.
1881 Lawrence., E.J. (Hon. Sec.)
1881 Ley, A.
1881 Lording, F.C.
1881 McGinnis, Mr.
1881 McKenzie, Mr.
1881 McWilliams, Mr.
1881 Morrison, Mr.
1881 Nearn, Mr.
1881 Neely, Mr.
1881 O'Donnell, Mr.
1881 Rohan, Mr.
1881 Shaw, Mr.
1881 Walker, Mr.

1882

1882 Bailey. G. (Vice-Captain)
1882 Burke, S.J. Dr (Patron)
1882 Craig, J. (First-20, Captain)
1882 Crosbie, T.
1882 Dixon, J. junior
1882 Lang, Mr.
1882 Laurens, J., MLA (Patron)
1882 Lawrence., E.J.
1882 Monie, S.
1882 Munro, J., MLA (Patron)
1882 Murray, R.D.
1882 Poole. F. (Hon. Sec. & Treas.)
1882 Sutcliffe, R. (Richard) (Pres.)
1882 Tankard, J.
1882 White, A.

Among those who played North's last first-20 match in 1882 in Royal Park:

1882 Cameron, Mr.
1882 Ley (brothers), Messrs
1882 Neely (brothers), Messrs
1882 Pullen, Mr.
1882 Rae (brothers), Messrs
1882 Todd, Mr.
1882 Walker, Mr.

NORTH MELBOURNE FOOTBALL CLUB

Pioneer Members 1855* – 1888

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Among the first-20 team to play the first game in Hotham Recreation Reserve in 1882:

1882 (Cont.)

1882 Amoss, Mr.
1882 Barwise, Mr.
1882 Boyd, Mr.
1882 Brand[t], Mr.
1882 Cameron, Mr.
1882 Clark, Mr.
1882 Goding, Mr.
1882 Goodwin, Mr.
1882 Guest, J.H.
1882 Guest, W.L.
1882 Irwin, Mr.
1882 Ley, A.
1882 Litchfield (x2), Mr.
1882 McInnes, Mr.
1882 Mitchell, Mr.
1882 Munro, Mr.
1882 Neely, Mr.
1882 Pullen, Mr.
1882 Rae (x2), Mr.
1882 Shaw, Mr.
1882 Smith, Mr.
1882 Todd, Mr.
1882 Walker, Mr.
1882 Westerman, Mr.
1882 Williams, Mr.
1882 Young, Mr.

1883

1883 Barwise, John (Jnr)
1883 Coffey
1883 Franks
1883 Guest, A.
1883 Guest, J.H.
1883 Guest, W,L.
1883 Litch
1883 Maher
1883 Parkins
1883 Perkins, H.
1883 Reid
1883 Tankard, Joseph
1883 Todd, A
1883 Todd, H
1883 Watkins
1883 Williams
1883 Williams

1884

1884 Alessio
1884 Atkin, C.A.
1884 Beveridge.
1884 Buncle, T.
1884 Coulsell, L.B.
1884 Ellis, B.
1884 Evans, M.
1884 Gray, F.
1884 Guest, A.
1884 Guest, J.H.
1884 Guest, W.L.
1884 Harcourt, E.
1884 Hayden
1884 Hems, H.
1884. Houston, D.
1884 Houston, R.

NORTH MELBOURNE FOOTBALL CLUB

Pioneer Members 1855* – 1888

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1884 (Cont.)

1884 Johnston, W. (Walter)
1884 Johnston, W. (William)
1884 Jones, J.
1884 Morris, J.
1884 Rae, W.G.
1884 Rushford, J.
1884 Todd. J.
1884 Young, A.
1884 Young, E.

1885

1885 Cherry
1885 Clements, John
1885 Flowers
1884 Guest, A.
1884 Guest, J.H.
1884 Guest, W.L.
1885 Halliberg
1885 McCraken
1885 McIntosh
1885 Rojo
1885 Swan
1885 Sykes

1886

1886 Anderson
1886 Bailey
1886 Brown, S.
1886 Cherry, K.
1886 Christian, H.
1886 Guest, A.
1886 Guest, J.H.
1886 Guest, W.L.
1886 Montgomerie, M
1887 Fox, E.
1887 Horrocks, Mr.
1887 McInerney

1886 (Cont.)

1886 Nairn, R.
1886 Peters, T
1886 Skinner
1886 Sykes, G

1887

1887 Abraham
1887 Bean
1887 Bradley
1887 Carlton
1887 Gilbern
1887 Gooley
1884 Guest, J.H.
1884 Guest, W.L.
1887 Lee
1887 Lang
1887 Newham
1887 Newing
1887 Paria
1887 Tobin

1888

1888 Allen
1888 Bingham
1888 Box
1888 Carroll
1888 Cullinan
1888 Doolan
1888 Evans, Mark
1889 Gibson
1884 Guest, J.H.
1884 Guest, W.L.
1888 Mossop Chris
1888 Rimes
1888 Rooke
1888 White [J.W.]

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Since his retirement he has focused on genealogy and writing, exploring the history of Australian rules football and his family's ties to the sport. A dedicated volunteer and player at grassroots football clubs, he also served as a non-executive director of the Coburg Football Club in the Victorian Football League (VFL) during the club's survival years 1999-2000.

Being a keen advocate of open source, he has published his genealogical and football research and made it available in the public domain. His genealogical study has been recognised as by the College of Arms in the UK, the Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies and by the expert opinion of Professor Tom Licence, MA, MPhil, PHD, FHEA, FRHistS, FSA, Professor of Medieval History, University of Anglia, Senior Research Fellow, Magdalene College, Cambridge.

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